Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you pay attention to where your food comes from?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

Severe Storms

A line of powerful storms rips through northern Illinois on Tuesday, spawning at least two tornadoes.

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Tart Reply

Attention, America: Paris Hilton, the blonde, doe-eyed celebrity thrust into the presidential campaign, has spoken.

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Bennett, Sablan interview for commissioner. **PAGE 2**

Rota mayor's son is released to stepmother. **PAGE 3**

'Garment sector's decline triggers high shipping costs'

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The fallout from the local garment manufacturing sector's slow decline appears to have reached the CNMI's ports as diminished cargo shipments drive up tariffs, Richard Pierce, chief trade advisor to Gov. Benigno Fitial, said this week.

"This increase in shipping costs is not just the price increase in fuel for the container ships," Pierce said. "It's more about the loss of cargo revenue in those now empty containers. This has already shown itself in increased commodity pricing on Saipan."

Labor officials last month disclosed that two garment factories, owned by United International Corp. and Onwel Garment Manufacturing, will shut their doors Sept. 21 and Aug. 21 respectively, marking the latest closures in the demise of the clothing production industry, once

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Pierce

FEDERALIZATION OF NMI IMMIGRATION

GAO stands by impact report

"GAO stands by the facts, conclusions, and all aspects of the agency's August 4 report... [It] is consistent with government auditing standards, GAO's consistent record of integrity, and its reporting requirements to Congress and the public."

—Charles Young, GAO spokesman

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Government Accountability Office stands by the report it issued this week on the prospective impact of the pending federal takeover of local immigration and foreign labor rules, the agency said Wednesday, in the face of stern criticism from Gov. Benigno Fitial's administration.

See GAO on Page 4

STIMULUS TALKS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of nonresident workers who have not yet received their federal economic stimulus checks listen to Coalition of United Workers (NMI) president Irene Tantiado as she explains and answers some questions about the release of the long delayed checks during a meeting at the American Memorial Park amphitheater Tuesday night.

Felipe Atalig is ninth delegate hopeful

Fitial administration welcomes crowded delegate race

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration welcomes the crowded Nov. 4 race for the CNMI's first-ever non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Saipan Municipal Council member Felipe Atalig joined the race yesterday, becoming the ninth and final congressional delegate hopeful.

"Regarding the delegate race, I want

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Local

Bennett, Sablan interview for commissioner post

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The two candidates for the Public Schools System commissioner position told the Board of Education Wednesday the CNMI school district must work hard to overcome a lack of resources.

During a specially-scheduled meeting, Ambrose M. Bennett, former CNMI Board of Education teacher representative, and Rita Sablan, PPS associate commissioner for instruction, interviewed for the position of commissioner, a position left vacant after BOE in June asked PSS Commissioner Dr. David Borja to step down.

Applicant Debra Ellen withdrew her name before the interview process.

During a series of questions, Bennett said PSS must find ways to overcome funding obstacles.

"For quite some time, the CNMI has been suffering from a lack of resources," he said.

Bennett said he created an economics workbook for junior high school students, and would like to see more teachers create materials.

"I'm not talking textbooks, but supplemental resources," he said.

The materials could be shared between schools, he added.

Sablan said PSS must look outside of schools for resources in order to provide support for curriculum assessment.

During various questions, Bennett referred to a lack of funding. "I think this is an underlying thread that keeps coming up," he said.

Bennett said the district must pursue flexibility with funding. "Our situation is unlike on the mainland, therefore we do have to be creative," he said.

PSS must understand what it is getting into when the district applies for various funds, Sablan said. "We don't want to tie our hands," she said.

The board is meeting this weekend to deliberate and will hopefully name a candidate by the start of the school year next month.

Guerrero: WIA seeks to bolster local workforce

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Responding to the federal cap on the number of foreigners permitted to work in the CNMI, the Workforce Investment Agency—the local employment education and training service—is striving to bolster the Commonwealth's pool of skilled workers through a variety of training programs, executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero said in a speech before the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Wednesday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Workforce Investment Agency executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero delivers her presentation during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting at the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque yesterday.

Recently enacted legislation has capped the number of foreign workers in the CNMI at 22,000, a limitation that has alarmed many business leaders dependant on foreign labor. However, Guerrero in her speech noted a host of training initiatives WIA and its partners have initiated that could help improve the local workforce in response to the cap.

"WIA and its primary training partner agencies such as" the Northern Mariana College, the Public School System, and the local Department of Labor "recognize the importance and urgency to be responsive in building a talented and skillful CNMI workforce that meets the needs of existing and future businesses within the CNMI," Guerrero said.

For example, Guerrero noted WIA's involvement in programs to train people as nurses, medical billing and coding staff, boat captains and to fill several other critical positions.

WIA is also collaborating with the newly established Marianas Trades Institute in an effort to support the training of local people in carpentry, electrical work and plumbing, she added, along with its efforts to support programs like Job Corps, which provides work related training in several fields.

In addition, WIA is aiming to improve the overall quality of the CNMI's workforce, she added, by addressing any deficiencies. This is critical, she noted, because a recent survey of Fortune 500 companies found most look for a host of job training-related qualities in the employees they hire, such as work ethic, reading comprehension, oral communication skills and computer literacy.

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Rota mayor's son is released to stepmother

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The son of Rota Mayor Joseph Inos was released on bail to his stepmother Wednesday, promising to adhere to a strict curfew and keep out of all poker arcades on Rota.

Wilbur Vic Masga Inos, 25, who was arrested Monday for allegedly robbing Rota Poker, was ordered released to his stepmother, Lucinda Inos.

Wilbur Vic Masga Inos, 25, is led out after yesterday's bail hearing. Inos was released to his stepmother on bond. He is accused of robbing a Rota poker facility.

Lucinda Inos is to make sure her stepson follows the 7pm to 6am curfew set by Saipan Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

If Wilbur Inos is one minute late or steps foot inside a poker arcade, she must notify the police, Govendo said.

"So if you hear or see he is going into [a poker building] you have to report it," he added.

Govendo said Wilbur Inos could stay out past the 7pm curfew when he is undergoing police training, something he had been pursuing before his arrest. Wilbur is allowed to arrive home one hour after any training ends, Govendo said.

Lucinda Inos is using a house valued at approximately $130,000 as bond.

"There's a lot to lose by his stepmom," Govendo said when Assistant Attorney General Melissa Simms objected to Wilbur's release.

At the hearing, Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke asked Lucinda Inos if the incident was an embarrassment.

"Very much so," she said.

According to the police report, Wilbur Inos had told the police officer that he needed the money because his son is in critical condition in Guam and might die. He allegedly pleaded with the police officer to let him go and pretend he never saw him.

Wilbur will be arraigned Aug. 22.

Utility moves forward in complying with EPA orders on improving water

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

If the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. does not follow orders stipulated in a new contract between the utility, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the U.S. Department of Justice, CUC could be charged thousands of dollars a day.

The new agreement is meant to meet requirements under the Safe Water Act and Clean Water Act.

CUC has failed to comply with a number of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency orders since 1999.

"I think it's been a work in progress for the last three of four years. It's just a culmination over that period of time, coming to fruition of what we basically agreed upon," Antonio Muna, executive director of CUC, said.

Under the agreement, CUC must draft a master plan, obtain a contractor and allow public comment on the plan.

Also, CUC must fill several positions as part of a wastewater management team.

Muna said CUC hired Bruce Megarr in March to be deputy director for water and wastewater. He will be in charge of making sure CUC files the quarterly reports stipulated in the agreement, Muna said.

"It will be his direct responsibility that we do what we're supposed to do," Muna said.

He said Megarr's background in water and wastewater should ensure that CUC complies.

CUC is required to turn in several plans to EPA on water sampling and monitoring.

"Within 90 days after the entry date, CUC shall develop and submit to EPA for approval a detailed plan, including a detailed schedule, to either install treatment at Tanapag Springs and Achugao Springs, or to disconnect those sources from the drinking water systems and provide an alternative supply of drinking water," the agreement states.

CUC must also turn in a plan that will detail how it will perform samplings and where sampling will take place.

There have been problems with CUC conducting sampling tests in the past. According to their July 2008 report, CUC did not complete all the testing for contaminants in 2007.

The agency failed to complete all monitoring or testing for cryptosporidium, synthetic organic chemicals, and volatile organic contaminants.

If certain stipulations are not met, CUC can be penalized up to $1,000 per day per violation for the first 30 days; $2,000 per day per violation following the 30 days; and $5,000 per day per violation for each day after.

A representative from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said he could not comment on the agreement because it has not been finalized by the U.S. Department of Justice.

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'Ice remains leading drug threat in Micronesia'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Methamphetamine hydrochloride or "ice" remains the leading drug threat in Micronesia, according to a Drug Enforcement Administration special agent.

DEA special agent Dan Holcolm said that over the past 10 years there has been a steady increase in "ice" trafficking throughout Micronesia—especially in the CNMI and Guam.

"Predominantly most of the 'ice' that we've seen in this area, CNMI, is coming from mainland China," said Holcolm during his presentation about regional drug trends at the 6th annual Micronesian Police Executives Association conference at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

However, he noted, Guam and some other areas throughout Micronesia have "ice" being smuggled from the U.S. mainland, the Philippines, Taiwan and Hawaii.

He said smugglers use every form of transportation including body courier, Federal Express, USPS, DHL, and seaborne containers.

The ice supply, he said, are often directly tied to Southeast Asian organized crime.

He said the prices of "ice" range from $200 to $400 a gram in Hawaii; $350 to $450 a gram in the CNMI, and $500 to $650 a gram in Guam.

Holcolm said the general speculation in the DEA is that, as the CNMI is federalized, local prices of "ice" will increase.

He said most "ice" being seized in Micronesia is being produced in "superlabs" operating in Southeast Asia.

However, clandestine methamphetamine labs are also being seized in Micronesia, he added.

To date, the agent emphasized, no clandestine "ice" lab has been found in the CNMI.

In Guam, he said, there was one DEA clandestine lab seizure in 2006; five in 2007, and two in 2008.

With respect to cocaine, Holcom said the demand for such drugs in Southeast Asia is being rapidly outpaced by the demand for "ice."

"Because of the dramatic upswing in demand for methamphetamine in the past 10 years, the price of cocaine has fallen dramatically," he said.

The price of cocaine in Guam is $600 per ounce, while it is $1,000 to $1,200 per ounce in Hawaii.

"Ship to ship and load jettisoning is causing significant quantities of cocaine to wash ashore throughout the FSM and Marshall Islands," he said.

Cocaine, he said, is predominantly shipped from South America to Southeast Asia via freighter.

The agent also discussed other drugs such as ecstasy and Yaa-Baa (a mixture of methamphetamine and caffeine).

CHAMBER MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce listen to the presentation of Workforce Investment Agency executive director Edith Deleon Guerrero during the group's General Membership meeting at the Palms Resort Saipan in San Roque yesterday.

CUC tasked to come up with oil pollution plan

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. must prepare and submit several plans to the U.S. Environmental Agency regarding oil pollution.

The plans are "necessary to mitigate the threat of discharge and address the imminent and substantial threat to public health or welfare of the United States," according to the agreement reached between CUC, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the U.S. Department of Justice. The agreement was devised after several penalties were filed against CUC.

Under the agreement, CUC must submit various reports, including an oil inventory self-inspection; spill prevention plan; and pipeline repair and/or replacement plan.

CUC is also required to devise a health and safety plan "that ensures the protection of the human health and safety during performance of work," according to the agreement.

Charles Reyes, press secretary for the Governor's Office, said the oil pollution plan, along with the wastewater plan have been in the works for about seven years.

"We've been working on it and we've made a major breakthrough with this plan and agreement," he said.

Dean Higuchi, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, said he could not comment on the agreement because it has not been signed by the U.S. Department of Justice.

DCCA child care program servicing 160-plus clients

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' child care program currently has more than 150 clients.

"The application process currently has approximately 164 actively clients, although there are still some clients that are going through re-eligibility," said Child Care Program Director Maribel Loste.

The program allocates funds for the purchase of child care services to eligible families, thereby enhancing the quality and increasing the supply of child care for families in need.

The program prioritizes subsidies to families with very low income, special needs children and homeless families with children.

Child Care Development Funds are received from the Child Care Bureau, part of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and increase the availability of early childhood development and before-and after-school programs.

The program subsidizes 75 percent to 95 percent of costs for working parents looking for child care or assistance in paying for child care.

"There are two kinds of child care: one is the 'center base child care provider', which means a provider licensed or otherwise authorized to provide child care services for fewer than 24 hours per day per child in a non-residential setting," Loste said.

The second type is "relative care", which means child care is provided by grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors who are at least 18 years old and live separately from the recipient of the care, she said.

Any inquiries are referred to Loste at 664-2573. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

FELIPE

From Page 1

to say the governor welcomes active democratic participation. We are not bothered at all by the number of candidates. We think that's a positive thing," press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Reyes said more candidates means more choices for voters.

He said the governor knows that the delegate race will be a competitive one. As of yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had yet to endorse a candidate.

Reyes said the governor may endorse a candidate at some point or he may not at all.

"But at this point he is open and neutral," the press secretary said.

Reyes noted that if the governor were to challenge the federalization law, the challenge would not include the delegate portion.

"The delegate portion is not harmful. He [Fitial] supports the delegate portion of the law. What he disagrees with are the other provisions of the law that he finds very damaging to the CNMI economy," he added.

According to Election Commission acting Director Julie Villagomez, Atalig filed his candidacy at 12:30pm yesterday.

Yesterday was the deadline for filing of candidacy.

On Monday, high school teacher and Vietnam War veteran John Davis also filed his candidacy.

The other candidates are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, former senator David Cing, television talk show host John Oliver Gonzales, retired judge Juan T. Lizama, businessman Chong Won, former Election Commission executive director Gregorio Sablan and Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

GAO

From Page 1

"The GAO stands by the facts, conclusions, and all aspects of the agency's August 4 report on the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," agency spokesman Charles Young said in response to questions. "The report is consistent with government auditing standards, GAO's consistent record of integrity, and its reporting requirements to Congress and the public."

The 133-page report details a range of potential economic outcomes that could result due to the so-called "federalization" of the local government's immigration and labor system, some more damaging to the Commonwealth than others. The report recommends that federal agencies "identify" an interagency process to implement the recently signed federalization bill and develop a strategy for gathering data on the CNMI's workforce and foreign businesses.

On Tuesday, Fitial and members of his staff blasted the report, saying some of its findings would foster uncertainty in the business community and frighten investors such as data that suggests under one scenario that federalization could cut the CNMI's gross domestic product in half.

However, GAO takes issue with the suggestion that its report forecasts a major economic fallout from federalization.

"GAO makes no predictions at all about what specific ramifications may or may not occur, but rather lays out a range of possibilities based on the best available data," Young said. "The report does not predict a substantial decline in the CNMI economy as a result of the legislation. Rather, it reflects the key decisions facing federal agencies and illustrates a range of potential impacts those decisions could have on the CNMI economy, ranging from minimal to substantial."

The potential 50 percent loss in the local GDP, he adds, is just one scenario among many detailed in the report.

"The scenario producing this outcome is neither unrealistic nor the most favorable; rather, it is based on the steepest decline in CNMI-only work permits of the scenarios illustrated," Young said. "The actual extent of the legislation's impact on the CNMI economy will depend on the key federal decisions related to foreign workers, tourists, and foreign investors identified in our report, as well as other factors in the economy."

Moreover, Young said, the report should not be taken as a prediction of GDP losses as it stops short of accounting for other changes in the CNMI over time that could also impact the economy.

"As the report also states, the impact of applying federal immigration law will depend on how the Department of Labor, the Department of Homeland Security, and other relevant federal agencies choose to implement the recently enacted legislation and how they coordinate that implementation," Young said. "The federal agencies that reviewed a draft of this report generally agreed with GAO's findings and recommendations and said that the report was useful. Fully informed and coordinated federal agencies will be best capable of making decisions that minimize adverse consequences for the CNMI's economy."

GARMENT

From Page 1

the lifeblood of a controversial economic boom in the Commonwealth.

Onwel and the UIC's two factories represent approximately 25 percent of the remaining workforce in the apparel industry, which once employed more than 17,000 people and now has an estimated 1,500, Pierce said

Yet even before this announcement, local ports and the government were feeling the symptoms of the garment sector's collapse with a severe drop in export taxes—the so-called "user fees"—charged on shipments and a decline in the number of shipping containers leaving Saipan. Shipping statistics reveal the average weekly number of 20-foot shipping containers departing the CNMI has dropped from the 140 each week seen in 1999 and 2000 to a mere five per week.

Consequently, Pierce noted, tariff rates for all shipping into and out of Saipan have risen by 115 percent.

"Businesses ranging from restaurants to grocery stores to communications to insurance and automobile dealers have felt the withdrawal of those factories and their employees from the CNMI," Pierce said.

In addition to diminished cargo container shipments, user fee collections for July showed a significant drop compared to the previous month. July's fee collections totaled $175,137 compared to the $373,100 seen one month prior, according to government data. User fee collections for the first 10 months of fiscal year 2008 totaled $4.79 million. The first 10 months of fiscal year 2007 netted $11.75 million.

The loss of the garment industry also carries a host of other "collateral damage," Pierce said. For example, the Commonwealth Health Center, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Labor and Immigration and other government agencies depended on fees associated with it.

Admin sees some improvements in economy

Tourist arrivals up; stimulus, refund, rebates checks out

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration foresees improvements in the economy in the last quarter of the calendar year as tourist arrivals inch up due to additional flights, combined with other positive factors.

Reyes

"Overall we have better tourism numbers for the whole year because of the new [Asiana] flights," press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

With the additional flights, Reyes said it is not just the Japanese and Korean tourists arriving that are moving up, but also the number of Russian visitors.

In addition, he said, the stimulus checks, refund checks, and rebate checks will at least help prop up the economy "a bit."

The government spokesman said the administration has already distributed the first batch of refund checks in the amount of $3 million.

"I think we should also be distributing refund checks, if not already, but very soon," he said. "People should be getting their rebates in their mails this month. This month people should be getting refund checks and rebate checks."

Reyes said he is not sure how much the next batch of rebate checks will amount to, but he believes it's in the millions of dollars.

With respect to the stimulus checks, Reyes said that, according to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, 85 percent of those checks have already been distributed.

"We only have 15 percent or less remaining. We expect to pay them as soon as all the other requirements are met. It's a matter of requirements. We have to follow IRS regulations," he added.

Although there is no major investor right now on the horizon, Reyes said there are additional flights "which is a net benefit."

He also cited that prices of fuel at the pump have been going down a little bit recently.

Yesterday, the price of oil went down $120 per barrel.

"The bottom line is not everything is bad news. We have good news and we have bad news. But it seems that sometimes the bad news take more prominence in the headlines," he said.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Hundreds of Japanese tourists fall in line at the immigration area upon arrival via Northwest Airlines at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Camacho seek speedy trials and mandatory preliminary hearings

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho has introduced sister bills that seek to implement speedy trials and a mandatory right to a preliminary hearing.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Camacho said that federal court and other states provide for speedy trials but this has not been put down in statutory form in the CNMI.

Camacho, a lawyer, said defendants must be entitled to speedy trials in the Commonwealth so that guilty persons are immediately punished, while innocent ones won't unreasonably suffer any delay in their cases.

"There are cases now that last for many months, sometimes years, before cases are resolved. And when you do get to trial, the court and the prosecution sometimes dismiss the case just before trial or during trial," he said.

When this happens, it is a waste of resources for the court, the government and those paying private attorneys, he said.

"What we are asking for is that you must go to trial within six months, obviously to save resources and at the same time to allow people to have their day in court instead of being unnecessary delayed," he said.

According to the bill, the unreasonable delay and repeated continuation of cases clog court dockets.

"Court time and resources are wasted when trial dates are set, jurors are summoned, witnesses are called only to have the trial date moved," said Camacho in the proposed measure.

Also, when cases are unreasonably delayed and repeatedly continued, this fosters an atmosphere of lax prosecution, he said. "It creates a situation where witnesses may have left the island and memories fade," he added.

Camacho's other proposed measure seeks to mandate that a person be accorded the right to a preliminary examination before the Attorney General formally charges a person with the commission of a felony.

Right now, he said, the Attorney General is the authority that brings the charges.

But a defendant, he said, has the right to have those charges reviewed by a fair and impartial magistrate to ensure if probable cause exists.

This is needed, Camacho said, so a person can confront the charges formally rather than deal with the repercussions of the allegations for months or years before their day in court.

The congressman said preliminary hearings currently take place but that they are not given to defendants who have already posted bail.

"The right to a preliminary hearing and the right to bail are two different things. You can post bail to be released on liberty until your trial should come. But the right to have those charges be reviewed by a fair and impartial magistrate is separate from the right to post bail," he pointed out.

Camacho said absent a grand jury system, having an independent and impartial magistrate review charges brought by the AG is at minimum a safeguard from unfounded and baseless allegations by the prosecution.

"Accordingly, the purpose of this act is to create a safeguard for the people of the Commonwealth from unfounded and baseless charges by the Attorney General by ensuring that charges are reviewed by an independent and impartial magistrate or judge," he said.

WIC program sees changes in coming months

By Kristi Eaton
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REPORTER

The Women, Infants and Children program will be undergoing changes in the next few months as staff try to enhance the organization's services, Josephina Tudela, the program administrator said.

Tudela said she hopes the two renovated buildings on Navy Hill that will house the new clinic will be ready to move into in September. The clinic is currently located in the Commonwealth Health Center.

The new clinic will help WIC reach its maximum caseload of 4,500.

"We're still trying to get there," Tudela said.

WIC currently has more than 3,000 clients, up from the 1,400 the organization had at the end of November 2007, she added.

But the clinic needs reliable power, something that has not been regularly available on Navy Hill, where the WIC administration building is located, Tudela said.

She said the Department of Public Works is examining alternative sources of power, such as windmills.

WIC is also looking to fill two positions, a registered dietician and a nutritionist, that have remained open since the organization's inception in August 2007, Tudela said. There is currently one registered dietician on staff.

"Those are classified as hard to fill positions," Tudela added.

Although Tudela told The Saipan Tribune last year she had hoped to offer WIC's services to Rota and Tinian by October of this year, it will not be possible, she said. Tinian currently has access to WIC, but Rota will not have access to the services until November.

WIC staff members are currently training for the implementation of a new software system, Arizona in Motion, which will expedite the organization's record keeping.

Tantiado steps down as coalition president

By Stefan Sebastian
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Irene Tantiado, a vocal labor activist, is stepping down from her post as president of the United Coalition of Workers, citing a desire to work independently as an advocate on behalf of workers' rights.

In an interview Wednesday, Tantiado said that she had submitted her resignation to the coalition the previous day but plans to continue her work alone.

"I will be in a better position, I think, to help if I'm my own because I will be working on an individual basis," she said. "I will be able to act faster and make decisions faster."

Tantiado won election to the coalition's presidency earlier this year and devoted her term to addressing issues critical to the CNMI's population of foreign workers such as the needs of foreign parents with children who have disabilities and the failure of some local insurance companies to pay workers money they are owned through surety bonds. She has formed close ties with key lawmakers and officials in the CNMI to lobby for workers' interests.

Tantiado

A contributing factor to her resignation, she noted, was some disagreements within the coalition's leadership.

"When you're in a group, there are a lot of differences and that was basically one of the reasons, because of that, why I wanted to leave," she said.

In one of her last acts as the coalition's president, Tantiado yesterday sent two letters to federal officials on the pending federal takeover of local labor and immigration rules and the needs of alien worker parents whose children have disabilities.

In her Aug. 5 letter to the U.S. Department of Labor, Tantiado urged its officials to begin playing a more active regulatory role in the CNMI, saying foreign workers have found themselves subject to substandard working conditions and, in some cases, abuse by their employers.

Since the passage of the recently signed "federalization" bill, Tantiado says local labor regulators have told workers to hold back their complaints until federal officials take control.

"We earnestly ask that as the Department of Labor assumes increased responsibilities here, that the employees you assign here will be particularly sensitive to the fact that we guest workers came here to earn a living, doing jobs the local workforce could not fill," Tantiado writes. "The wages we earn are higher than in our home countries, but none of us has become wealthy working here."

In a separate letter to the Department of Homeland Security, Tantiado asked officials for help for alien workers who are the parents of mentally and physically disabled children. Many of these parents, her letter notes, are facing repatriation but their children are American citizens. Local officials have said the parents cannot stay but they could leave their children behind—a position most find unthinkable.

"If we go back to our country, most of us are from provinces where there is no medical facility available to provide the necessary medical care that our children need," Tantiado writes. "Because of the economic condition of our own country, we might not be able to receive the same assistance from our government."

Federal and local government officials could not be reached for comment on the letters at press time.

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Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on August 12, 2008 (Tuesday), from 10:30am-2:30pm, Fresko Cabin, Palms Resort, San Roque, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Quorum
- D. Adoption of Agenda
- E. Adoption of Minutes
  1. July 22, 2008

II. Reports
- A. Program Director
  1. Monthly Report for July 2008
- B. Updates
  1. Program Improvement Projects
  2. Human Resources
- C. Financial Report
  1. Monthly Financial Status Report for end of FY 07-08
- D. Standing Committees
  1. Personnel
  2. Education Curriculum
  3. Executive
  4. Finance
  5. Public Relations

III. Old Business

IV. New Business
- A. Action Item
  1. Approval of SY 08-09 Written Service Area Plans

V. Executive Session

VI. Next Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcomed to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Meyers at 664-3751.

Mr. Efrain Atalig
Chairperson

Students exposed to agri, life sciences careers

Feeding shrimps and other marine species, collecting and studying insects, constructing aquarium systems, and preparing plant tissue cultures are only some of the duties that several students are carrying out as part of the Northern Marianas College internship program that promotes their understanding of agricultural systems and opportunities.

The internship, which started earlier this week, is part of the NMC Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service's Agricultural Development in the American Pacific Internship Program.

Funded by the ADAP Capacity Building Program and CARIPAC/Resident Instruction Program, the internship aims to attract, recruit, and encourage students to enroll in NMC's Associate in Natural Resource Management program, a two-year degree program that prepares graduates to enter careers in agricultural and life sciences.

The program hired and assigned 21 student interns at various CREES programs on Saipan, six on Rota, and two on Tinian.

The Entomology Research section has four summer interns from Saipan: Lyza Lacsina, Ramon San Nicolas, Tristan Garcia, and Samuel Joyner. They are now assisting with the collection, identification, and preservation of insects and other arthropods such as fleas, ants, wasps, mosquitoes, and various agricultural crop pests.

Seven interns are currently exploring the work performed in the Plant Pathology section. Joseph Ada, Anthony Alepuyo, Chad Atalig, Muhammad Islam, Nature Atalig, Masako Atalig, and Kim King are learning how to prepare plant tissue cultures and to collect and input data. They also assist with planting seeds, watering plants, weeding, mulching, and labeling plants.

The Aquaculture Program has three interns. Jay Villagomez, Loremel Hocog, Marseli Frank, and Mark Badilles assist with the maintenance and cleaning of tanks, filters, grounds and plumbing systems, assist in the feeding of shrimps, tilapia, and other marine species, and the keeping of accurate records of feedings, growth, and water quality. They also assist with the research and construction of recycling aquarium systems, program presentations and demonstrations.

The 4-H Program has six interns: Luizi Reyes, Cherita Yangirefil, Isaiah Lizama, Anamaria Inos, Johora Paeda, and Chris Castro. They are engaged in the organization and coordination of Summer Camp activities, including assisting volunteers chaperone the 4-H members during the camp, collecting and summarizing activity evalua-

See STUDENTS on Next Page

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMC-CREES summer interns from Saipan pose for a photo with CREES Director Ross Manglona, far left, at the College's campus in As Terlaje.

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GAO calls on agencies to step up role in immigration federalization process

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A new Government Accountability Office report made public Tuesday underscores the important role federal agencies—particularly the Department of Homeland Security, along with the Departments of Labor and the Interior—must play in providing for the successful transition of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to federal immigration policy.

"I am not surprised with GAO's findings with respect to the job of federal agencies in the coming months. This transition can work and be beneficial to the CNMI economy and her people, but it will clearly need a collaborative effort from CNMI leadership and other stakeholders to be a success," said Del. Donna M. Christensen (D-VI), chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs.

In May 2008, Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 was enacted to apply U.S. immigration laws to the CNMI, subject to a transition period ending in 2014. Christensen, along with House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Nick J. Rahall (D-WV) and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), asked the GAO in May 2007 to examine the effects that implementation of this legislation will have on the CNMI economy.

The GAO outlined several key factors critical to a successful immigration policy transition.

These include:

■ A coordinated interagency process—headed by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Interior, Labor, and State, and the U.S. Attorney General—must be put in place to jointly implement the legislation. There is currently no formalized process in place to coordinate agency decisions.

■ A joint effort between the Secretaries of Homeland Security and Labor to develop strategies for obtaining critical data on the labor market and foreign investment in the CNMI to ensure no undue harm is done to the CNMI economy.

■ Continued cooperation from the CNMI government to continue working with federal agencies throughout the transition period. ***(PR)***

MPLT MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Marianas Public Land Trust chair Alvaro Santos facilitates the special board meeting at the MPLT office in Oleai on Monday.

Maui's hotel occupancy tumbles

MAUI, Hawaii (The Maui News/PIR)—In June, nearly deserted Kekaa Beach in West Maui reflected Maui's low hotel occupancy rate—64.6 percent, compared with 75.2 percent for June 2007.

Maui hotel occupancy was way down in June, to 64.6 percent compared with 75.2 percent last year.

For the first half of the year, the numbers are down only modestly, from 75.6 percent in January-June 2007 to 73.8 percent this year.

The accelerated recent decline was not unexpected. The tourist head count is down sharply.

Average posted daily room rates are up by 4 percent to $207 statewide. Ordinarily, this would be taken as a sign of strength, but Hospitality Advisors, which publishes the numbers, says not this year.

"Total visitor expenditures dropped by 3.4 percent during this period, indicating that visitors spent more on their hotel rooms and significantly less on other items during their stay," it said in commentary to its Hawaii Hotel Flash Report.

The report, issued Monday, called the first half of this year "challenging," noting losses in air seats, cruise ships and the weak national economy.

The decline in the statewide room occupancy rate was smaller than Maui's, from 76.1 percent to 69.1 percent. However, that figure conceals that a meaningful number of hotel rooms—1.3 percent—were out of service for renovations.

Children's Fun Day

The first ever Children's Fun Day will be held this coming Sunday, August 10 from 2pm to 4pm at Kilili Pavilion, Susupe. We are asking parents to bring their kids so they can enjoy the food and entertainment prepared for them. Admission is free.

We are expecting more than 300 children in addition to the children with disabilities who already accepted our invitation.

The organizers thank the generous donations of PIC Saipan, Rotary Club of Saipan, Eli Arago, Horizons, Inc., MBI and Philpan. We are still accepting pledges from other individuals and organizations.

This is rare opportunity to appreciate and share our blessings with the children of this island.

For inquiries, text Irene at 285 7717 or email at irenebdi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

IMPORTANT NMC DATES FOR FALL 2008

08/11-15/08	Professional Development Week
08/15/08	New Student Orientation 9:30 a.m. Room: D-1 5:30 p.m. Room: D-1
08/18-22/08	Registration Period for Fall 2008 Semester

Must have English & Math Placement Level to register; Applications for admission will be accepted until the last day of Registration

08/23/08	Late Registration ($25 fee)
08/25/08	1st Day of Instruction Petition to Graduate for Spring 2009
08/25-29/08	Add/Drop Week (100% Refund)
09/05/08	Last Day to Withdraw for 80% Refund
09/12/08	Last Day to Withdraw for 40% Refund
10/10/08	Last Day to Withdraw from a course(s)
11/13/08	Teacher Candidacy Application (Spring Deadline) Student Teaching Practicum (Spring Deadline)
12/13/08	Last Day of Instruction
12/15-20/08	Final Exam Week
12/22/08	GRADES DUE

FALL SEMESTER PLACEMENT TESTS

English Placement Test Schedule

08/06/08	1:00-4:00pm	Room: D-1
08/07/08	5:00-8:00pm	Room: D-1
08/11/08	5:00-8:00pm	Room: D-1
08/20/08	5:00-8:00pm	Room: A-9
08/21/08	8:00-11:00am	Room: A-9

Math Placement Test Schedules

08/12/08	10:00am-12:00pm	Room: D-1
	5:00-7:00pm	Room: D-1
08/14/08	10:00am-12:00pm	Room: D-1
	5:00-7:00pm	Room: D-1
08/19/08	10:00am-12:00pm	Room: A-9
08/21/08	5:00-7:00pm	Room: A-9

Government Employees Professional Development Assistance Program applicants must apply at least one week prior to Registration week. For more information, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Extension 1528 or visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

STUDENTS

From Page 7

tion, assisting in daily administrative duties such as answering the telephone, filing, routing of documents and camp preparation, and other assigned duties.

In the meantime, Albert Palacios, Matthew Mancao, Raina Cing, and Vicky Barcinas are working in the EFNEP-NDPA program by assisting with the preparation of demonstrations and presentations pertaining to nutrition, physical activity and health. They also help with filing and organizing documents, preparing literature for distribution to various audiences, and other related assigned duties.

CREES also has one administrative assistant intern, Macy Agoun. She assists in preparing documents, routing, filing, and answering phones. The intern assigned to the Office of the Dean is Jessy Jastillana. He works with administrative managers and other support staff and is undergoing training on general office procedures, customer/phone/office etiquette, preparing meeting packets, and the use and operation of office technology equipment.

There are two administrative interns for the Community Development Institute office: Venetia Deleon Guerrero, and Tamara Masga. They answer the telephone and assist in filing. The Outreach Program has two interns: Joey Sison and Leilani Cepeda. They are assisting by taking photos, writing press releases, and preparing reports.

The ADAP Summer Internship Program was designed to afford the students specialized knowledge and work experience while promoting their understanding of CREES programs. Upon the completion of the program, the interns are also likely to gain valuable insight and heightened respect for the island's environment and fragile natural resources.

Additionally, students are encouraged to realize the advantages of giving back to the community and making a difference by starting some lifestyle changes that ultimately benefit the CNMI. ***(NMC)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 07, 2000

U.S. AG asked to probe PCB mess

Greenpeace and Tanapag residents have pressed the U.S. Attorney General to investigate into the alleged gross negligence and violation of federal laws by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 in connection with the sloppy cleanup of a polychlorinated biphenyl-contaminated village. In a letter addressed to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, Greenpeace Pacific representative Dr. Arlene Griffen said the people of Saipan have been exposed to PCB tainted soils for over a decade due to the negligence of the U.S. government.

Greenpeace questions cleanup process

A toxics chemical expert has raised concerns on the technology that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will use in conducting a cleanup of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in Tanapag, a northern coastal village in Saipan. Greenpeace's Dr. Darryl Luscombe said the indirect thermal desorption process will only separate PCB from the soil but does not destroy the highly toxic chemical.

CPA cuts harbor departure fee to $2.25

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board has approved the implementation of Seaport Incentive Program which lowers the passenger departure fee at Saipan Harbor from $5.85 to $2.25 for one year, in a move to help the tourism industry cope with the decline in the economy. CPA Seaport Committee Chair Francisco Q. Guerrero said the board made sure that such incentive will not hamper its debt service to the $33 million seaport bond.

August 07, 2001

Initiatives for Council, PSS dead

Two significant legislative initiatives-one increasing the mandatory funding for the Public School System and another empowering municipal councils-are now dead in the water after failing to make it to the August 6 deadline for inclusion in a referendum this November 3. Time run out on House Legislative Initiatives 12-001 and 12-004 after being stymied at the Legislature due to several amendments made on the measures by both chambers.

Filing of election documents closed

The CNMI Election Commission yesterday stopped accepting petitions from individuals seeking public office in this year's general polls. The election commission also closed the process of receiving other documents, including legislative initiatives, that are supposed to be decided by local voters in November. Executive Director Greg Sablan said preliminary documents filed by petitioners will be thoroughly screened before the official list of candidates is released.

Ingram relieves intelligence chief

Police Commissioner Charles Ingram yesterday relieved Department of Public Safety Intelligence Chief Pete W. Onni, who admitted to have owned an adult shop selling smut and sex toys in Garapan. At the same time, Ingram has tasked the department's Internal Affairs Division to investigate Onni's possible violation of any DPS regulation because of his involvement in the adult shop business.

August 07, 2002

Babauta insists on deficit spending

Gov. Juan N. Babauta is insisting that he be given the authority to spend beyond the $193 million level set for this fiscal year and, if the House of Representatives remains adamant in refusing to grant that request, then he may just go ahead and go over the budget ceiling, without the blessings of the lower chamber. Babauta told reporters yesterday that he may go to jail for this but he insists that his primary duty to ensure continued delivery of basic public services far outweighs any legal impediments thrown his way by the lower chamber.

Expansion of airport terminal completed

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has completed the construction of the expanded portion of the Saipan International Airport, giving a much needed facelift to the island's air transport facility. The CPA recently opened the west wing of the Saipan airport terminal, which houses three departure/arrival gates in addition to three other gates at the east side of the terminal building.

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EDITORIAL

Dollar bills and Paris Hilton

Is Barack Obama a celebrity lightweight, a self-involved Paris Hilton yearning to live "The Simple Life" in the Oval Office? Is John McCain trying to scare voters about the fact that Mr. Obama, soon to be the first African American nominee, "doesn't look like all those other presidents on those dollar bills?" And one more question: How silly were we, just two months ago, in venturing "some hope that the general election can be waged on the elevated plane that both nominees say they want?"

When the story of Campaign 2008 is written, neither candidate is likely to look back with pride on the final week of July. Mr. McCain is entitled to question his opponent's readiness for the presidency and even to employ a bit of cheeky humor in making his point. He's not entitled to be dishonest, as he was, for example, in the ad suggesting that Mr. Obama preferred to play basketball rather than visit wounded troops on his trip to Germany.

Mr. Obama is entitled to inoculate himself against the discomfort and even hostility that are, unfortunately but inevitably, evoked among a minority of Americans by the fact of his race. Indeed, he would be foolish to pretend that race plays no role in this historic campaign. But Mr. Obama is not entitled to pin responsibility for this reaction on the McCain campaign, as he did on Thursday in saying that President Bush and Mr. McCain would try to scare voters: "You know, 'He's not patriotic enough. He's got a funny name.' You know, `He doesn't look like all those other presidents on those dollar bills.'"

There was, no doubt, a calculated element of tactical foul-crying in the McCain campaign's loud and immediate protestations that Mr. Obama had not only "played the race card" but dealt it "from the bottom of the deck." This assessment was overstated. But just as the Obama campaign is free to do what it can to counteract the complications of running as the first African American nominee, the McCain campaign needs to carve out space to wage a vigorous campaign without fear of being labeled racist at the slightest criticism.

Both candidates would do well to keep in mind that voters, worried about gas prices and the economy, health care and Iraq, are likely to run quickly out of patience with some of the juvenile back-and-forth. Voters face a serious choice between two candidates who bring impressive qualities to the race. Those qualities weren't shining through last week.

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Customer snowballs

By **RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS**
Special to the Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

One of the fun things about growing up as a kid in Idaho during wintertime was being able to build a snowman. It's pretty easy to make, since a snowman consists of three balls of snow stacked on top of each other with a few accessories, such as sticks, coal and a carrot, added to give it some personality.

The body and head start out by packing a softball-sized snowball and then gently rolling it on the ground to pick up more snow. The process is slow at first, but once it starts to expand, the ball quickly grows until it's the right size. You've probably seen cartoons where a small snowball rolls down a snow-covered hillside, and quickly grows to become a menacing boulder of snow.

The "snowball effect" is a figurative term for a process that starts from a small, initial state and builds upon itself to become larger, or more serious. This effect occurs in your business when a customer is dissatisfied with some aspect of the product or how they are served. Metaphorically, they may feel like you've thrown a snowball in their face. A minor incident can become more serious over time until it is either resolved or the customer vows never to return, or worse, finds a lawyer to help keep the ball rolling.

According to statistics from surveys reported by the U.S. Office of Consumer Affairs, one customer in four is dissatisfied with some aspect of a typical transaction, but only one out of 20 dissatisfied customers will complain directly to the company. Instead, a dissatisfied customer will tell, on average, 12 other people about their experience with the organization that provided poor service.

As an employee or business owner, you may only hear a complaint from one person, but you can be assured that others may have experienced similar frustrations. How you deal with the complaint will determine if the snowball stops or it starts going downhill to gain momentum at an exponential pace. Let's look at the numbers again to determine how this might happen.

The customer who feels like a snowball has been thrown in their face, and throws one back at you by complaining is a very important customer because you may have been unaware that something was wrong. Now you can do something about it. However, if you're like most businesses that throw us a snowball, and we lob one back, they will just make excuses, deny the snowball was from them, or ignore the incident.

This is a big mistake, because the customer will now begin rolling the snowball with the help of those they tell about the incident—which is about 12 people. Now you have 13 people that know you throw snowballs at your customers. Oh, but there are 19 others who did not complain to you directly, but went to 12 others to share their feelings. That total is now about 260 people (20 x 13 = 260) for every complaint you hear.

Depending on the severity of the problem, and how it was handled, the snowball will start to build momentum until hundreds more are rolling the ball by telling their friends and associates. This continual escalation will plow away at your business and become evident in lost customers, declining sales, and a poor reputation through word-of-mouth, especially in the electronic-age when email and social networking is so easy and convenient.

Word-of-mouth can break a business, but it can also make a business by producing better business results. On the positive side, when you deal with customers in a fast, fair, and friendly manner when there is a complaint, the word will get around that your business is a good place to shop because you take care of your customers. People who have a very positive experience at a business tend to tell four other people.

We recently purchased a name brand exercise bike from Price Costco and after putting it together it worked great, except for one problem—the monitor was defective. We called the customer service number in the manual, but a rep gave us the responsibility shuffle by telling us that Saipan is considered international and he couldn't help. We called Price Costco and were told they would have their technician look at it and fix it, or refund our money. Unfortunately, the defective monitor could not be fixed, so our money was refunded without any hassle.

We have spent thousands of dollars over the years at the store and will end up spending thousands more because we know that they don't intentionally snowball their customers, and even if one does inadvertently hit us in the face, they will take care of it. Unfortunately, we can't say that about many of the businesses on island. Instead, they usually end up giving us a snow job and put the blame somewhere else. Bottom line: If you don't heed the snowball effect when it comes to customer service, you'll have a snowball's chance on Saipan of staying in business.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Meetings with federal officials

By RALPH DLG. TORRES
Special to the Tribune

Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres is chairman of the Health, Education & Welfare Committee in the 16th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Less than a year ago, I pledged, as your congressman, to do my best to improve the conditions of our people, our visitors and our businesses. Since I made that promise, I have seen first-hand the pleas for assistance from families and from the numerous government agencies in our island. The difficulty has been, and continues to be, to provide the financial assistance from a budget that is needless to say, insufficient to meet our people's demands.

It is with this lack of funding from within our CNMI, combined with the clear urgent needs to meet our many challenges, that prompted me to travel to Washington D.C. for a week to meet first-hand with federal officials in both the U.S. Administration and U.S. Congress who are instrumental in assisting the Commonwealth. As chair for the Health, Education and Welfare Committee, the single most important purpose of my travel was to seek assistance for these three specific areas. However, it would have been premature if I did not address what is a constant concern in all of our daily lives—blackouts and CUC.

Accordingly, foremost in my discussion was the urgency to rehabilitate and to improve the Saipan power system. After providing federal officials with a clear picture of how the frequent power blackouts are compounding the economic crisis facing our government, they expressed their interest in assisting us. The federal officials are willing to have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assess our power problem, which will enable us to know the exact source of the power problem and the tools necessary to correct the problem. In short, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer will be able to provide us the technical assistance, which would otherwise cost us hundreds of thousands of dollars to obtain elsewhere. Furthermore, Mr. Allen Stayman and Mr. Joshua A. Johnson with the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources recommended that a portion of the CIP fund be dedicated for a new power plant. The Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Tony Babauta, Brian Modeste, and Josh Johnson also joined us during our meetings.

My meeting with Doug Domenech and Nikolao I. Pula, director of Insular Affairs with the Department of Interior, centered on the Saipan power crisis. In planning for our future, we discussed a possible alternative power source such as a power barges system as we attempt to rehabilitate our power system or build a new power plant.

Additionally, with respect to our educational needs, I met with Ms. Adrienne E. Dunbar with the House Committee on Education and Labor to echo the financial constraints facing our educational system in the areas of professional staff and supports, CIP funds to repair dilapidated classrooms, the purchase of textbooks and so forth. We also deliberated at length the accreditation issue with Northern Marianas College and WASC. The waiver of 50/50 matching funds and the increase of Title 48 Waiver to $500,000 were also discussed.

At a later date, I discussed the health concerns of our island with Mr. Brandon Clark of the U.S. House Health Subcommittee. Of particular concern is the lack of professional staff in specialized areas such as psychiatry, nephrology, and etc., which affect our community's health standards. The high rate of diabetic cases in the Northern Marianas is a major concern expressed by the federal government. The meeting was beneficial in that I was informed of areas in which the NMI may acquire additional funds from federal grants such as a Non-Emergency Grant and the Medicaid Transformation Grant.

Throughout the weeklong meetings with the various federal officials, our meetings were conclusive in one apparent message—the federal government is willing to help us with our urgent problems in view of our dwindling financial resources. The message of a clear willingness to help came from Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo of Guam, keys officials of the U.S. House Committee on Education and Labor, House Subcommittee on Health, House Committee on Appropriations, House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Office of Insular Affairs, and the Office of Economic Assistance within the Department of Homeland Security. But we must always remember that their willingness to help is only as good as our willingness to be helped.

In light of the political undercurrents surrounding our economy and the many issues which have divided our people, my trip to D.C. is only a stepping-stone as your representative. I look forward to hearing from any one of you for your concerns and feedback.

In closing, I would like to extend a sincere appreciation for the assistance and hospitality of our Honorable Pedro A. Tenorio, NMI Washington Representative, and his staff in setting up the appointments. Our Washington Rep. had accompanied me to numerous meetings set within the span of a few days.

Overall, my trip was successful and a great learning experience for me as well as an opportunity to educate them of the various issues facing our Commonwealth.

What Bush should ask for in Beijing

By SASHA GONG
Special to The Washington Post

I was one of five "Chinese freedom activists"—as the White House press release called us—who met with President Bush last week as he prepared to depart for the Olympics in Beijing. I did not tell him not to go. I did not tell him to poke the Chinese government in the eye by meeting with dissidents. What I did tell him was that he ought to use this opportunity to push for an agreement with the Chinese on the free exchange of information.

I was a political dissident in China for many years and suffered the consequences, including a year in jail. But after living in America for more than two decades, I have made it my mission to educate the Chinese public about my adopted country, its people, its values, and its political and social institutions. I do this through my writing, some of which is published in China. I also do it through my Chinese-language blog, which has had 1.3 million hits since I started it last year.

In that spirit, I gave the president a suggestion: How about proposing a free information exchange agreement with China? The Chinese government is already educating the American public about China, without much reciprocity. Why shouldn't our own government-sponsored programs be able to tell the Chinese audience about the United States without censorship? Fair is fair.

In fact, the Chinese have been operating freely in the United States for some time. Want to watch China's Central TV station in Chinese or English? Just subscribe to cable TV. Not enough for you? Dozens of Chinese channels are available by satellite. Want to read a Chinese newspaper? Buy a subscription. Chinese Web sites are free and are always available. China has developed plenty of ways, backed by massive government funding, to explain itself to U.S. citizens.

Unfortunately, there is no reciprocity. Broadcasting into China by the Voice of America is often jammed, and its Web site is frequently blocked. And the impact of other U.S. government-sponsored programs is negligible.

The lack of good information has created an image problem for the United States with the Chinese people. State-sanctioned media provide them with a steady stream of negative information. A decline in belief in socialism and a rise in materialism have led to a crisis of values in China, and the government's solution has been to stoke the coals of ultranationalism and xenophobia. Those too young to have experienced the horror of the Mao years are especially susceptible. Earlier this year, the world had a glimpse of the depth of their resentment when young people across China launched large demonstrations against the West because of its sympathy for Tibetan monks and Chinese dissidents.

If extreme xenophobic sentiments from a group of Chinese youths don't look like a clear and present danger to America, think of what similar sentiments motivated a group of young Arab men to do on Sept. 11, 2001.

After World War II, the United States developed a forward-looking plan to promote understanding of its values around the world and to protect its national security. Programs of the U.S. Information Agency influenced millions of minds. In 1971, when I was 15, I first heard the Voice of America on a crystal radio set made by my brother. At that time, listening to "enemy radio" was an offense punishable by imprisonment, but I did it anyway. If anyone wonders why people in nations once behind the Iron Curtain remain largely pro-American, I can testify that VOA was a major factor.

Today's "crystal sets"—Internet, cable, cellphones—are far more powerful and create the illusion of a free flow of information. Chinese citizens surf millions of Web sites, and millions of Chinese "netizens" write blogs every day. Yet, the mechanisms of government censorship have advanced with equal sophistication. I learned this firsthand when an article I posted on my blog about stem-cell research was blocked in China. The problem, I learned, was a comment made by someone I interviewed about the Republicans in this country acting like a "one-party dictatorship"—words that ran afoul of China's automatic censors. Apparently, you don't even have to criticize the Chinese government to be blocked; criticizing the GOP will do just as well if you use certain words to do it.

When I told the president that my writings about America have attracted millions of Chinese readers, he responded, "If you have millions of readers, what are you complaining for?"

"I am complaining that I am a one-man band," I replied.

The Chinese government is not about to throw open its media market, even though it agreed to do so as a condition of membership in the World Trade Organization. But incremental progress can be made. President Bush can use the opportunity presented by the Olympics to push for a foothold for our programs in China. And I told him so.

Sasha Gong is a scholar, writer and journalist. Her Chinese-language blog can be viewed at http://gongxiaoxia.blog.tianya.cn.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to President Bush

Dear Mr. President Bush:

Hello! Salutations from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas! My name is Anna Rose! I am a 14-year-old student in support of the Mariana Trench National Marine Monument. I was born and raised on the island of Saipan.

I support the Monument because I want to preserve our islands' marine life. I want to stop the unnecessary killing of marine life, and prevent further damage. I have already done a commercial on saving coral reefs, and I need you to support this monument.

Mr. President, I believe it is MY responsibility to make sure my future children and my grandchildren can still enjoy our islands' marine life. But I'm just one kid. I need you to care about our islands' marine life, and the CNMI desperately needs a marine sanctuary. I want to see to it that the CNMI gets one. I also believe in conservation. And now we all need it, what with global warming and such.

Everywhere I look, I see people dumping waste into the ocean, throwing trash on the ground endlessly, and cutting down trees. At any rate, if we don't start taking care of nature, the environment and marine life, then mark my words, global warming is going to speed up, and more terrible things will happen.

And that brings me back to the Marine Monument. That is one step closer to saving valuable species of animals, but it is also one step closer to saving this planet. After all, if we live on Earth, we should take care of it. Not destroy the very surface on which we live on. Please, heed my letter. We need this sanctuary. We need you to support it. Marine life should be preserved and protected. Not sabotaged and prone to danger.

So please, Mr. President, protect marine life. Please support this marine sanctuary, and make a good difference out here.

Anna Rose DeLeon Guerrero
San Vicente, Saipan

'No need'

I remember someone saying that there is "no need" for a marine monument. Well, can everyone see what's happening to the islands' economy right now? Tourist rates have been declining, garment factories are shutting down and our local government is in a big deficit. So is it appropriate to say that there is "no need" for a marine monument?

I personally think that we the people of the CNMI should find ways to help our struggling economy. I strongly agree that we should take this opportunity that is only going to be offered to us once in a lifetime. We should support the project because it is for a very good cause, protecting our ecosystem up in the northern waters. By supporting this good cause we will be entitled to many benefits. These benefits consist of income in revenue, jobs, free exposure to the world, additional tourist attraction and educational purposes. The local government won't spend a dime. People will really see the CNMI in a better and brighter way. So please support the Marianas Trench National Marine Monument.

Herman Villagomez
As Perdido, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. South winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly sunny.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

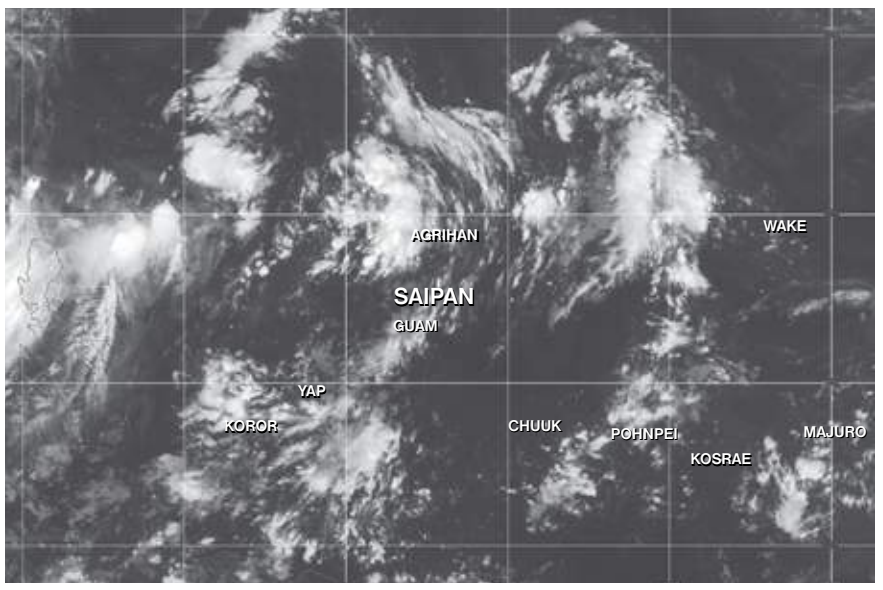
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼72
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼72

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼52
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲86	▼76
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼77
London	Showers	▲73	▼59
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲82	▼64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼45
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼77
New York	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Paris	Showers	▲83	▼60
Pusan	Cloudy	▲88	▼79
Rome	Sunny	▲92	▼70
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼57
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲94	▼74
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Southwesterly convergence associated with low pressure centered near 26N137E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of the Mariana Islands within an area bounded by a line from 21N132E to 22N140E to 17N149E to 14N135E back to 21N132E. A surface trough from 3N137E to 14N136E is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southwest of Guam across Yap State and just east of Palau within 150 miles of a line from 7N139E to 13N141E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area across the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of a line from 6N169E to 9N178E. An upper-level low centered far northwest of Wake Island at 23N155E along with upper-divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an area bounded by a line from 21N150E to 25N158E to 23N161E to 16N153E back to 21N150E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:09AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:57AM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
5:48PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
11:42PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:01AM	6:45 PM
Friday	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:02AM	6:43 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:53AM	10:39PM
Friday	11:44AM	11:19PM
Saturday	12:35AM	
Sunday	1:27PM	12:02AM
Monday	2:20PM	12:48AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,003.900
Up 121.900
(+2.50%)

HONG KONG
21,949.75
Down 0.00
(0.00%)

JAKARTA
2,203.1509
Up 17.532
(+0.80%)

TOKYO
13,232.17
Up 317.51
(+2.46%)

K. LUMPUR
1,128.86
Down 19.82
(-1.73%)

MANILA
2,697.21
Up 94.83
(+3.64%)

SINGAPORE
2,893.86
Up 33.35
(+1.17%)

SEOUL
1,570.48
Up 34.94
(+2.28%)

BANGKOK
668.08
Up 0.96
(+0.14%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
11,615.77
+331.62

NASDAQ
2,349.83
+64.27

S&P
1,284.88
+35.87

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0823
British Pound	0.5103
Canadian Dollar	1.0414
Chinese Renmbi	6.8514
Euro	0.644
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8046
Indian Rupee	42.288
Indonesian Rupiah	9083
Japanese Yen	108.2
Malaysian Ringgit	3.2688
New Zealand Dollar	1.3785
Philippine Peso	44.12
Singapore Dollar	1.3747
South Korean Won	1017.5
Swiss Franc	1.0509
Taiwan Dollar	30.725
Thailand Baht	33.595

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Oil falls as low as $118 on demand concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil traders sent crude prices tumbling as low as $118 a barrel Tuesday on the growing belief that a U.S. economic slowdown and high energy costs are curbing consumer demand for gasoline and other petroleum products.

Crude oil finished the day just above $119 a barrel—its lowest settlement price since early May.

Crude's decline is giving Americans more relief at the pump. A gallon of regular gasoline on average fell another penny overnight to $3.871, according to auto club AAA, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Gas prices have fallen four straight weeks for the first time since December; prices are off 5.9 percent from their July high as U.S. motorists cut back on their driving to save money.

A day after plunging as much as $5 a barrel in a dramatic sell-off, crude continued its downward trend. Gasoline and heating oil prices also fell, while natural gas ended unchanged after Monday's steep drop.

Light, sweet crude for September delivery fell $2.24 to settle at $119.17 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the lowest close since May 2. During trading, the contract dipped to $118—nearly $30 below the trading high of $147.27 reached July 11.

"The market psychology has finally shifted," said Stephen Schork, an analyst and trader in Villanova, Pa., adding that "$4-a-gallon gasoline has clearly killed demand."

Some analysts say oil has the potential to jump back up.

There are many factors that could keep oil from descending further, said Mike Fitzpatrick, vice president of energy and risk management at MF Global LLC.

ASK THE EXPERTS

How can I reduce the chances of getting my tax return audited?

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Tim Abercrombie is a partner at Abercrombie & Associates in Silver Spring, Md.

I would suggest taxpayers consider the following:

■ Gather all of your supporting documentation. For example, you must have receipts for charitable donations made in cash or by check to a qualified organization in amounts greater than $250. Also, make sure you have documentation for unreimbursed business expenses and vehicle mileage deductions. Make sure you include all revenue received during the tax year.

■ Use the tax code to your advantage. There are many deductions you may not realize you are allowed. Consider a conservative approach in areas that are not clear in the tax code. Consider using a tax professional.

■ Deductions for a home office can catch the eye of the IRS: Make sure your office is a separate space used primarily for business. Other IRS flags: home-based businesses such as Subchapter S corporations and sole proprietorships that consistently lose money.

■■■

James J. Bruyette is managing director of Harris SBSB in McLean, Va.

An IRS audit is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as the return is prepared accurately and is properly documented. But to reduce the chances, taxpayers should be aware of the following trigger items:

■ Home-office expenses for your business.

■ High charitable deductions.

■ Deductions that are high relative to your income.

■ Tax shelter investment losses.

If you have any of these items, make sure that your documentation is in order and that your deduction is on solid ground.

It's a good idea to attach explanations if you have unusual items. If the IRS's computerized flags generate an exception item, an explanation might prevent further action.

Be meticulous in years when you move to another state, as partial-year returns can generate state audits, particularly if you report a large amount of income taxable in another state.

■■■

Ronald H. Posner is a director at CBIZ Accounting, Tax & Advisory Services in Bethesda, Md.

Most IRS audits are driven mainly by computer-selected matching of income items to documents submitted to the government by third parties such as banks, brokerage firms and employers. When an income discrepancy is found, a bill with proposed additional tax, interest and penalty is generated.

Itemized deductions such as mortgage interest are scrutinized in the same manner.

To avoid getting this type of audit, you have to make sure that all documents such as 1099s and 1098s for interest and dividend income, stock sales, miscellaneous income, retirement income and distributions and mortgage interest have been reported correctly and are placed in the proper location on your return. In addition, make sure all Social Security numbers are correct for you and any dependents claimed on your return. Attention to these details before filing your return will go a long way in avoiding any red flags being raised.

Fed holds rate steady on inflation, growth worries

WASHINGTON (AP)—Confronted by problems at every turn—rising unemployment, shaky growth, credit troubles and creeping inflation—the Federal Reserve left an important interest rate unchanged, taking a gamble that for now the best move was no move at all. The next direction for rates probably is up but that's not likely until next year.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and all but one of his central bank colleagues agreed Tuesday to leave its key rate alone at 2 percent for the second straight meeting.

Bernanke

In turn, the prime lending rate for millions of consumers and businesses remained at 5 percent. The prime rate applies to certain credit cards, home equity lines of credit and other lines.

"Although downside risks to growth remain, the upside risks to inflation are also of significant concern," the Fed said. Policymakers are faced with dueling problems: weak economic growth and advancing inflation. To treat one, risks aggravating the other. The Fed indicated Tuesday that each problem poses about equal risks to the economy.

It was welcome news to Wall Street, however, where stocks put in their best showing in months on relief that the Fed's assessment of the economy and inflation wasn't worse.

Wall Street extends rally after Fed decision

NEW YORK (AP)—An already soaring Wall Street extended its advance Tuesday after the Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged and assuaged some of the market's fears about the economy. The Dow Jones industrial average shot up more than 330 points, and all the major indexes had gains approaching 3 percent.

AP

Jeffrey Vasquez, right, and fellow traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange after the Federal Reserve interest rate decision, Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008.

The market was enjoying a big rally before the Fed meeting as investors responded to a report that services sector activity fell less than expected last month and to another drop in oil prices that took crude as low as $118 a barrel.

The Fed gave stocks another huge push higher in the last hours of trading. In a statement accompanying its widely expected rate decision, the central bank reported that "economic activity expanded in the second quarter, partly reflecting growth in consumer spending and exports." That assessment was welcome news to a market that has feared the economy was falling into recession because of weak consumer spending.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Cisco earnings up 4 percent, beating forecasts

NEW YORK (AP)—Cisco Systems Inc. said Tuesday that sales would be weaker than analysts had forecast in the next few quarters, but investors who had expected worse were cheered. The world's largest maker of computer networking gear said orders would grow 8 percent in the current quarter, as customers, particularly telecom carriers, pinch their money. Cisco shares were up $1.58, or 7 percent, at $24.25 in extended trading after the release of the results. The stock has slid from the year's high of $27.72 set June 5 as investors prepared for a weak forecast. For the fiscal fourth quarter that ended July 25, Cisco reported earnings of $2.01 billion, or 33 cents per share.

News Corp 4Q profit jumps 27 percent

NEW YORK (AP)—News Corp.'s fiscal fourth-quarter earnings jumped 27 percent on profit from the sale of assets and higher operating earnings in its film, cable networks and newspaper units. Chairman and Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch said in a statement the company faces "more challenging macro-economic conditions" in the current business year that will lead to "somewhat less robust growth." The New York-based media conglomerate, which also owns Twentieth Century Fox, Fox News Channel and Dow Jones & Co., publisher of The Wall Street Journal, said net income in the quarter ended June 30 rose to $1.13 billion, or 43 cents per share, from $890 million, or 28 cents per share, a year ago.

Treasury hires Morgan Stanley on Fannie, Freddie

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Treasury Department said Tuesday it had hired investment firm Morgan Stanley to help the government assess the risks facing mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. For $95,000 to cover the company's expenses, Morgan Stanley will assess the state of the mortgage market and give the government a financial profile of the two firms. The two mortgage firms received a promise of support from the federal government as part of a sweeping housing rescue bill passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush last week. Treasury spokeswoman Brookly McLaughlin said the contract would help ensure the Treasury Department had good advice to decide how to support the two mortgage firms, which together own or guarantee half of all U.S. mortgages.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Federal agent dies after Fla. post office shooting

PEMBROKE PINES, Fla. (AP)—A federal agent was fatally shot outside a busy south Florida post office after a fight Tuesday, and dozens of police officers searched the area for the gunman, police said. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent died at Memorial Regional Hospital in suburban Fort Lauderdale less than three hours after the 9 a.m. shooting, police spokesman Sgt. Brian Davis said. Donald Pettit, 52, was with his young daughter when he was shot, said Carlos Baixauli, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Jet evacuated after emergency landing at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Passengers were evacuated by inflatable chutes Tuesday after a Honolulu-bound airliner made an emergency landing at Los Angeles International Airport because someone smelled smoke in the cabin. No sign of fire was found on the aircraft. Six passengers, including a child, were treated for bumps, bruises and other minor injuries, city fire spokesman Brian Humphrey said. American Airlines Flight 31 to Honolulu, carrying 188 passengers and six crew members, took off from the airport at 8:48 a.m., American spokesman Tim Smith said. A short time later, the pilot decided to turn back. "They had some type of smoke or odor in the cabin," Smith said.

Illegal immigrants invited to turn themselves in

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—Wanted: Illegal immigrants with clean records who have ignored court orders to leave the country. Immigration officials are standing by to help you leave the country. No jail. No joke. That invitation drew hardly any takers Tuesday on the first day of a new federal "self-deportation" program that offered 457,000 eligible illegal immigrants the chance to turn themselves in, get their affairs in order and leave the country without being detained. The tepid response only reinforced doubts about an idea that has drawn criticism and even ridicule from both sides of the immigration debate.

Texas wants 8 kids from sect back in state care

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Texas child welfare authorities asked a judge on Tuesday to place eight children from a Texas polygamist sect's ranch back into foster care, saying their mothers refuse to limit their contact with men accused of being involved in underage marriages. Child Protective Services filed petitions asking Texas District Judge Barbara Walther to place the six girls and two boys belonging to four different mothers back in foster care. The children, ranging in age from 5 to 17, will be allowed to remain with their mothers until a hearing scheduled for Sept. 25, said CPS spokeswoman Marleigh Meisner. None currently lives at the Yearning For Zion Ranch in Eldorado.

CIA officials deny fake Iraq-al-Qaida link letter

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two former CIA officers Tuesday denied that they or the spy agency faked an Iraqi intelligence document purporting to link Saddam Hussein with 9/11 bomber Mohammed Atta, as they are quoted as saying in a new book. The White House issued the statement on behalf of the former officials after a day of adamant denials from the CIA and Bush administration about the claim, made in "The Way of the World," a book by Washington-based journalist Ron Suskind. "I never received direction from George Tenet or anyone else in my chain of command to fabricate a document ... as outlined in Mr. Suskind's book," said Robert Richer, the CIA's former deputy director of clandestine operations.

Gun-control groups fear top activist was an NRA spy

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A gun-control activist who championed the cause for more than a decade and served on the boards of two anti-violence groups is suspected of working as a paid spy for the National Rifle Association, and now those organizations are expelling her and sweeping their offices for bugs.

The suggestion that Mary Lou McFate was a double agent is contained in a deposition filed as part of a contract dispute involving a security firm. The muckraking magazine Mother Jones, in a story last week, was the first to report on McFate's alleged dual identity.

The NRA refused to comment to the magazine and did not respond to calls Tuesday from The Associated Press. Nor did McFate.

The 62-year-old former flight attendant and sex counselor from Sarasota, Fla., is not new to the world of informants.

She infiltrated an animal-rights group in the late 1980s at the request of U.S. Surgical, and befriended an activist who was later convicted in a pipe bomb attack against the medical-supply business, U.S. Surgical acknowledged in news reports at the time. U.S. Surgical had come under fire for using dogs for research and training.

McFate resurfaced in Pennsylvania and has since spent years as an unpaid board member of CeaseFire-PA and an organization called States United to Prevent Gun Violence. She also twice pushed unsuccessfully to join the board of the nation's largest gun-control group, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Obama leads McCain in AP-Ipsos poll

WASHINGTON (AP)—Solid margins among women, minorities and young voters have powered Barack Obama to a 6 percentage point lead over John McCain in the presidential race, according to a poll released Tuesday.

Obama is ahead of his Republican rival 47 percent to 41 percent, The Associated Press-Ipsos poll showed. The survey was taken after the Democratic senator from Illinois had returned from a trip to Middle Eastern and European capitals, and during a week that saw the two camps clash over which had brought race into a campaign in which Obama is striving to become the first African-American president.

Obama

McCain

McCain, the senator from Arizona, is leading by 10 points among whites and is even with Obama among men, groups with whom Republicans traditionally do well in national elections. Obama leads by 13 points among women, by 30 points among voters up to age 34, and by 55 points among blacks, Hispanics and other minorities, the poll shows.

Independent Ralph Nader and Libertarian Bob Barr both won support from less than 5 percent of the registered voters surveyed. When people were asked who they would support if Nader and Barr were not on the ballot, Obama's lead over McCain was virtually unchanged.

The poll showed a huge Democratic advantage when voters ponder which party they would like to see control Congress next year. Democrats were favored over Republicans 53 percent to 35 percent, underscoring the mountainous disadvantage McCain and other GOP candidates are facing in the Nov. 4 voting.

The poll illustrated other ways damage has been inflicted on the Republican brand name as well.

11 charged in connection with credit card fraud

BOSTON (AP)—Eleven people, including a U.S. Secret Service informant, have been charged in connection with the hacking of nine major retailers and the theft and sale of more than 41 million credit and debit card numbers, the Justice Department announced Tuesday.

The data breach is believed to be the largest hacking and identity theft case ever prosecuted by the Department of Justice, which said the suspects were charged with conspiracy, computer intrusion, fraud and identity theft.

Three of those charged are U.S. citizens while the others are from places such as Estonia, Ukraine, Belarus and China.

The indictment returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Boston alleges that the suspects hacked into the wireless computer networks of retailers including TJX Cos., BJ's Wholesale Club, OfficeMax, Boston Market, Barnes & Noble, Sports Authority, Forever 21 and DSW and set up programs that captured card numbers, passwords and account information.

"They used sophisticated computer hacking techniques that would allow them to breach security systems and install programs that gathered enormous quantities of personal financial data, which they then allegedly either sold to others or used themselves," Attorney General Michael Mukasey said at a news conference. "And in total, they caused widespread losses by banks, retailers, and consumers."

A house lies in ruins due to storm damage in Griffith, Ind., Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008. AP

Violent storms spawn tornadoes in Chicago area

CHICAGO (AP)—Crews began cleaning up downed trees and restoring power across northern Illinois on Tuesday after a line of powerful storms ripped through the area, spawning at least two tornadoes.

The National Weather Service confirmed that tornadoes touched down in the Chicago suburbs of Bloomingdale and Bolingbrook late Monday. A third tornado touched down in Griffith, Ind.

A tornado and other high winds damaged 25 homes, including two left uninhabitable when winds ripped off parts of roofs, said Bolingbrook Assistant Fire Chief Robert Mierop. No one was injured. Strong winds also damaged buildings and flooded streets across the northern part of the state late Monday, and lightning is being blamed for several fires.

Another line of thunderstorms left tens of thousands without power early Tuesday in north-central Illinois.

Parts of central and southern Illinois were under severe thunderstorm warnings Tuesday, and the weather service predicted more strong winds and the possibility of hail. Weather damage—including standing water, downed tree limbs and blinking traffic lights—snarled rush-hour traffic in the Chicago area.

Asia

Olympic flame sets off on final relay

AP

A runner carries the Olympic flame through Tiananmen Square during the Beijing Olympic Torch Relay in Beijing Wednesday Aug. 6, 2008.

BEIJING (AP)—The Olympic flame approached the final destination of its long and sometimes contentious global tour Wednesday, greeted by rapturous crowds in the Chinese capital two days before it officially launches the Summer Games.

The arrival of the torch marks one of the final steps in China's seven years of preparations for the games that have cost billions of dollars, and one which Beijing hopes will serve as the country's symbolic debut as a modern world power.

The torch will tour Beijing before ending up at Friday's opening ceremony for the games. It will be carried by a diverse group, including China's first astronaut in space Yang Liwei, movie director Zhang Yimou and basketball superstar Yao Ming.

"I'm very happy to be here," said Yang before the relay kicked off from the Forbidden City, home of Chinese emperors since the 15th century.

"That the torch is finally in Beijing is a realization of a dream we've had for a hundred years," Yang said, minutes before he took up the flame as its first torchbearer.

Overseas, the torch relay was disrupted by protests or conducted under extremely heavy security since it left Greece on March 24, turning an event that should have built up excitement for the games into something of a public relations disaster for the hosts.

The protests have mostly been in response to China's crackdown in March on anti-government riots in Tibet and to more general concerns over human rights issues in China.

The torch arrived back in the capital late Tuesday, after an emotional run in Sichuan province, the site of China's deadly May 12 earthquake which killed almost 70,000 people and left some 5 million homeless. It was paraded Tuesday through about eight miles of the provincial capital of Chengdu. Hours later, a powerful aftershock struck other parts of Sichuan province in western China and nearby provinces, but it was not felt in Chengdu.

Cholera outbreak in RP village kills 18

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A cholera outbreak in a remote southern Philippine township has killed 18 people and sickened at least 50 others, the mayor said Wednesday.

Most of the victims of the outbreak in two mountainous hamlets near Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat province were children, said Mayor Samrud Mamansual. The area is about 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) south of Manila.

Mamansual blamed poor water supplies and inadequate sanitation.

ABS-CBN television reported late Tuesday that members of the Philippine Red Cross rushed to the two villages with medicines and were testing local water supplies for contamination.

The first victims started complaining of diarrhea last week, the report said, adding the villages are so remote residents had to walk several miles (kilometers) down the mountain to reach the nearest health center.

A similar outbreak in the neighboring village of Ligaw three months ago killed eight people and sickened 60 others.

Cholera outbreaks are not uncommon in the Philippines, especially during the rainy season.

Cholera is a severe gastrointestinal disease often caused by consuming water or food contaminated with fecal matter.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP says pact with Muslim rebels will push through

PUTRAJAYA, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippine government pledged Tuesday to convince Christian politicians to drop their opposition to an accord aimed at ending a southern insurgency by granting minority Muslims an expanded homeland. The preliminary agreement had been scheduled to be signed in Malaysia on Tuesday, but the Philippine Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order Monday to delay the ceremony after Christian politicians objected to the deal because they were not consulted. The accord between the Philippine government and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front would expand an existing autonomous region in the southern Philippines to add 712 more villages, provided residents approve the move in a vote.

Bush: N. Korea has work to verify denuclearization

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Bush said Wednesday that North Korea has much to do before the U.S. can remove it from the terror blacklist, but he raised hope that its pariah status as a member of the "axis of evil" status could some day be a thing of the past. Pyongyang expects Bush to remove it from the U.S. list of terror-sponsoring countries as soon as next weekend, as promised when the North blew up its nuclear reactor cooling tower in June. Bush, speaking at a news conference with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, said North Korea must first agree to international terms for verifying its dismantlement efforts.

Italian reaches base camp after tragedy on K2

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—The last survivor of the deadliest mountaineering disaster to hit K2 limped into base camp with frostbitten feet Tuesday, but thick clouds threatened to keep him on the mountain for at least another night. "Now I really realize that everyone here has died," said Italian climber Marco Confortola, 37, who was stranded on the world's second highest peak after an avalanche of falling ice blocked climbers descending from the summit nearly four days ago. As many as 30 mountaineers began their ascent of K2 on Friday. Eleven died in the avalanche that swept some climbers away and left others stranded in frigid conditions just below the 28,250-foot summit: three South Koreans, two Nepalis, two Pakistanis and mountaineers from France, Ireland, Serbia and Norway.

Strong earthquake hits western China; 1 killed

BEIJING (AP)—A strong aftershock struck a western Chinese region where a May earthquake killed almost 70,000 people, shaking buildings a few hours after the Olympic torch relay passed through the area Tuesday. One person was killed and 23 injured. The U.S. Geological Survey measured the quake at magnitude-6.0. It struck shortly before 6:00 p.m. local time and the USGS said the epicenter was 30 miles northwest of Guangyuan town in Sichuan province at a depth of 6 miles. The casualties were reported in Yaodu, a township in Qingchuan, Xinhua said.

Chinese police beat, detain 2 Japanese reporters

TOKYO (AP)—Two Japanese journalists were briefly detained and beaten by police in western China, their companies and one of the men said Tuesday, triggering a protest by the Japanese government. Chinese officials later apologized.

They were working in Xinjiang at the scene of a deadly attack Monday on Chinese policemen when they were forcibly taken to a border police facility, said Shinji Katsuta, a reporter for Japanese broadcaster Nippon Television Network Corp.

A photographer from the Tokyo Shimbun newspaper, Shinzou Kawakita, was also apprehended and roughed up.

4 activists detained in Beijing for Tibet banners

BEIJING (AP)—Police detained four activists Wednesday after they unfurled "Free Tibet" banners outside the Beijing National Stadium, site of the Olympic Games' opening ceremony later this week, a pro-Tibet group said.

Three men and one woman from Students for a Free Tibet climbed two electricity poles in front of the stadium, dubbed the Bird's Nest, and unfurled the two banners at dawn, said Lhadon Tethong, the New York-based group's executive director.

One banner said "Tibet will be free" and the other said "One World, One Dream"—the slogan for the Beijing Olympics—with the words "Free Tibet" in Chinese. The flag of the Dalai Lama's exiled Tibetan government flew from the pocket of the one of the protesters.

China tries to shrug off deadly attack

KASHGAR, China (AP)—Blood was washed off the road. Debris was cleared away. And authorities said peace had been restored Tuesday in China's restive Muslim region where 16 police were killed in an attack that may have been timed to overshadow Olympic celebrations.

But there were plenty of other signs suggesting all was not well in Kashgar, this ancient Silk Road city near the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan at the opposite end of China from Beijing.

Townspeople were reluctant to talk about Monday's brazen assault. Police stepped up security checks and put schools, hospitals and government offices on heightened alert, state-run media and locals said. Slogans on billboards, walls and buildings urged people to create a more secure and harmonious society.

Tibetan exiles in India arrested near China border

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—Indian police detained 56 Tibetan exiles, including several monks and nuns, attempting to cross the border into China and protest the Beijing Olympics, police said Tuesday.

The arrests were made late Sunday night in Tabo, a remote village high in the Himalayas about 15 miles from India's border with China, said Vinod Kumar, the area's deputy superintendent of police.

The Tibetans had been detained as "a preventive measure" and they have not been charged, Kumar said. A local magistrate has allowed the police to hold the group in custody for at least five days, he added.

Booger is back: Woman receives 5 cloned puppies

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Booger is back. An American woman received five puppies Tuesday that were cloned from her beloved late pitbull, becoming the inaugural customer of a South Korean company that says it is the world's first successful commercial canine cloning service.

AP

Five cloned pitbull puppies are seen at the Seoul National University Hospital for Animals in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008.

Seoul-based RNL Bio said the clones of Bernann McKinney's dog Booger were born last week after being cloned in cooperation with a team of Seoul National University scientists who created the world's first cloned dog in 2005.

"It's a miracle!" McKinney repeatedly shouted Tuesday when she saw the cloned Boogers for which she paid $50,000.

"Yes, I know you! You know me, too!" McKinney said joyfully, hugging the puppies, which were sleeping with one of their two surrogate mothers, both Korean mixed breed dogs.

The team of scientists working for RNL Bio is headed by Lee Byeong-chun, a former colleague of disgraced scientist Hwang Woo-suk, who scandalized the international scientific community when his purported breakthroughs in cloned stem cells were revealed as fake in 2005.

World

Report: 125,000 gorillas found in African zone

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP)—Wildlife researchers said Tuesday that they've discovered 125,000 western lowland gorillas deep in the forests of the Republic of Congo, calling it a major increase in the animal's estimated population.

The Wildlife Conservation Society, based at New York's Bronx Zoo, and the Republic of Congo said their census counted the newly discovered gorillas in two areas of the northern part of the country covering 18,000 square miles.

Previous estimates, dating to the 1980s, put the number of western lowland gorillas at less than 100,000. But the animal's numbers were believed to have fallen by at least 50 percent since then due to hunting and disease, researchers said. The newly discovered gorilla population now puts their estimated numbers at between 175,000 to 225,000.

"This is a very significant discovery because of the terrible decline in population of these magnificent creatures to Ebola and bush meat," said Emma Stokes, one of the research team.

The researchers in the central African nation of Republic of Congo—neighbor of the much larger Congo—worked out the population figures by counting the sleeping "nests" gorillas make. The creatures are too reclusive and shy to count individually.

Craig Stanford, professor of anthropology and biology at the University of Southern California, said he is aware of the new study. "If these new census results are confirmed, they are incredibly important and exciting, the kind of good news we rarely find in the conservation of highly endangered animals." He added that independent confirmation will be valuable because nest counts vary depending on the specific census method used.

Western lowland gorillas are one of four gorilla subspecies, which also include mountain gorillas, eastern lowland gorillas and Cross River gorillas. All are labeled either endangered or critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

AP

In this photo provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society, a western lowland gorilla silverback is seen among members of a group in the Republic of Congo Thursday, July 31, 2008.

Calls for end to Saudi child marriages

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—An 11-year-old boy gave out invitations to his classmates for a big event his family was planning this summer - and it wasn't his birthday party.

It was his wedding to a 10-year-old cousin. Muhammad al-Rashidi's marriage was eventually put on hold, his father said, after pressure from the governor of the northern province of Hail, who considered the elementary school student too young to marry.

The case is among a recent spate of marriages involving the very young reported in the media and by Saudi human rights groups. They have been widely denounced by activists, clerics and others who say such unions are harmful to the children and trivialize the institution of marriage.

Saudi Arabia is already rocked by a high divorce rate that has jumped from 25 percent to 60 percent over the past 20 years, according to Noura al-Shamlan, head of the research department at the Center of University Studies for Girls.

"We are studying this issue so we can put an end to this phenomenon," said Zuhair al-Harithi, board member of the Human Rights Commission, a Saudi government-run rights group. "These marriages violate international agreements the kingdom has signed."

Al-Harithi's group recently succeeded in delaying the consummation of the marriage of a 10-year-old girl after getting reports from medical centers in Hail that she and a man in his 60s had showed up for the mandatory prenuptial medical tests.

He said the commission wrote to the province's governor and head of Islamic courts urging them to stop the marriage.

But there are other marriages involving children that have gone ahead.

One involved a 15-year-old girl whose father, Muhammad Ali al-Zahrani, a death-row inmate, married her off to a cell mate who also was sentenced to death. The father's sentence was carried out July 21, when he was beheaded for killing another man.

Pictures of the wedding, held in the prison in Taif for the men, appeared in several newspapers. Media reports said inmates recited poems and delivered speeches in the presence of prison officials. The teenage bride and other women, as is the custom here, held a separate reception outside the jail.

AP

A Saudi man, right, buys a wedding dress at a shop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008.

Canada bus beheading suspect says 'please kill me'

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Manitoba (AP)—A man accused of beheading and cannibalizing another passenger on a Greyhound bus in Canada pleaded Tuesday in court for someone to "please kill me," and was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Prosecutor Joyce Dalmyn, who argued for the evaluation, revealed new details about the attack Wednesday night. She said Vince Weiguang Li had a plastic bag containing his victim's ear, nose and part of a mouth in his pocket when officers arrested him. The only response officers received from him was: "'I have to stay on the bus forever,'" Dalmyn said.

Li, who immigrated to Canada from China in 2004, is charged with second-degree murder in the slaying of 22-year-old carnival worker Tim McLean - an attack which witnesses aboard the bus said appeared to be unprovoked. He has yet to enter a plea.

Li was scheduled to appear Tuesday to determine whether he should undergo psychiatric testing, but the judge in Portage La Prairie adjourned the hearing for a short recess to allow a legal aid attorney to confer with him.

Since his arrest, Li has declined to speak to prosecutors and his court-appointed attorney.

AP

Vince Weiguang Li, accused of stabbing, beheading and cannibalizing another man on a Greyhound bus in Canada ,is brought to a Portage La Prairie court Tuesday, August 5, 2008 and was ordered by the judge to undergo a psychiatric assessment.

When asked again by the judge after the recess if he wanted a lawyer, Li shook his head and then quietly said "please kill me."

Li's remark was heard by reporters and confirmed by court clerks, but was not acknowledged by the judge. He is due back in court Sept. 8.

Thirty-seven passengers were aboard the Greyhound from Edmonton, Alberta, to Winnipeg, Manitoba, as it traveled at night along a desolate stretch of the TransCanada Highway about 12 miles from Portage La Prairie. Some were napping and others watching the movie "The Legend of Zorro" on bus television screens when Li attacked McLean, allegedly stabbing him dozens of times.

As horrified passengers fled the bus, Li severed McLean's head, displaying it to some of the passengers outside the bus, witnesses said. He then began hacking at the body.

A police officer at the scene reported seeing the attacker hacking off pieces of the victim's body and eating them, according to a police tape leaked on the Internet.

A church pastor, Tom Castor, who helped hire Li soon after he immigrated in 2004 with his wife, Anna, said the man never showed any sign of anger or emotional problems when he worked there as a custodian. Church officials said they vetted Li by contacting references listed on his application and running a criminal record check.

More than 105,000 people have joined an online memorial group for McLean.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pope Benedict tells China: open up to Christianity

OIES, Italy (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI urged China Tuesday to open up to Christianity as he visited the birthplace of a 19th century saint who died as a missionary there 100 years ago. China's officially atheistic Communist Party forced Chinese Catholics to cut ties with the Vatican in 1951, and the two sides have not restored formal relations. Many of the country's estimated 12 million Catholics worship in congregations outside the state-approved church and often are arrested or harassed. "It is important for this great country to open itself to the Gospel," said Benedict, who has made the improvement of relations with China a priority of his papacy.

Iran offers response to nuclear incentives package

BRUSSELS (AP)—Iran responded to incentives aimed at defusing a dispute over the country's nuclear program on Tuesday, the State Department and an EU diplomat said, adding that the response will now be studied by the six nations that devised the package. In Washington, the State Department said it had received a copy of the Iranian response by e-mail from the office of EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and would study it ahead of a conference call Wednesday. "We're going to take a look at it," spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos told reporters, adding that the United States and its partners would move to impose new sanctions unless Iran's response was an unambiguous acceptance of the offer.

Montenegro convicts 4 Americans in uprising plot

PODGORICA, Montenegro (AP)—Four Michigan residents were among 12 ethnic Albanians convicted Tuesday of plotting a rebellion to carve out a homeland within the tiny Balkan republic of Montenegro. The Americans of Montenegrin origin were part of a group arrested in September 2006. Three of the Americans, Sokol Ivanaj and cousins Kola Dedvukaj and Rrok Dedvukaj, had lived for decades in Michigan but were on a visit to Montenegro when apprehended. A fourth American, Doda Ljucaj, was the alleged mastermind of the plot. He was born in Montenegro but lived in the United States and was arrested in Vienna, Austria, later in 2006.

2 Italian hostages freed in Somalia

ROME (AP)—Two Italians kidnapped in Somalia have been released, Italy's foreign minister said Tuesday, months after men armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades surrounded the aid workers' house and took them away in blindfolds. Franco Frattini told parliament that Iolanda Occhipinti and Giuliano Paganini were in good condition and had been taken by plane to Nairobi, Kenya, where there were in the care of the local Italian Embassy. Gunmen seized the Italians along with a Somali colleague in an attack May 21 in Awdhigle, a southern Somalian village about 45 miles south of the capital, Mogadishu.

Environment

An eye-opening experience at DFW

By TERESA J. MILLER
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hello, everyone! My name is Teresa J. Miller; I am 22 years old and currently attending Northern Marianas College. I have lived here on the island for the past 10 years, and have loved every minute of it! One of my dreams since high school was to work in an environment that deals with protecting our waters. When I heard about the coral reef management internships I jumped on the opportunity. I was fortunate enough to be hired by Division of Fish and Wildlife, and work with the enforcement sector.

While working with Fish and Wildlife, I have many fun and exciting projects ahead of me. One of my main projects is the outreach program. My main goal with this project is to get out in the public and inform them of where our Marine Protected Areas are in the CNMI, and the rules and regulations for those areas.

There are five Marine Protected Areas in the CNMI. There is Sasahaya on Rota, Marine Tinian Reserve, Forbidden Island Saipan, Bird Island Saipan, and Managaha Island Saipan. In all of these places there is no fishing allowed, no collecting of any species from land or water, no feeding the fish, no stepping on the coral and no bonfires. Anyone caught breaking these rules will be fined from $500 to $10,000. These Marine Protected Areas and regulations were put into place to protect our natural resources for our future generations. For this part of the project I go around the island and talk to people. I ask them if they know where our Marine Protected Areas are, if they know the regulations, and so on. For those who do not know, I give them the information, and pass out posters. Another part of this project is to go around to our sanctuaries and display posters that say "No fishing, No collecting, and No feeding." This has probably been one of the funniest parts because I've been able to see parts of the island that I have never seen in the 10 years of living here! The public is also welcome to help out in part of this project. If you see anyone fishing in one of our Marine Protected Areas, please call Fish and Wildlife at 664-6030.

Another project that I have is to make new posters displaying our Marine Protected Areas. The poster will basically show our Marine Protected Areas, and the rules and regulations. Of course it will have an eye-catching look to it also! This is one project I am really looking forward to. Something that our peers can keep, but yet it still informs. I am also working on incorporating different languages into the posters so our tourists can also understand what our Marine Protected Areas are for.

I know I have a bright and full future ahead of me. I also have many plans for what I wish my future to be. I am currently attending Northern Marianas College and am working on obtaining my bachelor's degree in Education. I plan to further my education by obtaining a master's degree in Marine Biology with a specialty in whales and dolphins. As a child I have always loved the water and the animals in it. I figure with both those degrees I can come back to my home of Saipan and do great things. I can educate our young minds about our waters, and spread the same love I have of the water to our younger generations. I would also be able to do research on our waters, and hopefully find useful information to better our island.

While working at Fish and Wildlife I have learned so much already! Throughout my internship I have been working with the Enforcement Sector, and honestly, I am starting to look more into becoming a Conservation Officer. I think being a Conservation Officer would put all of my dreams into one place! I would be out on the water, and I would be educating the public on how to conserve the resources we have left. Working here this summer has really opened my eyes to the options that I have, and I can't think of any other way I would wish to spend my summer.

Thank you to everyone who helped me. And most especially thank you to my mentor, Marianne Teregeyo, and the staff at Fish and Wildlife for teaching me all they know, and being so helpful. You guys are the greatest and do a great job!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Teresa Miller poses next to the canyon on Managaha Island.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miller is seen here posting a No Fishing sign along the trail on Forbidden Island.

Walk it, don't drive it

Going to the beach? Please walk it, not drive it.

Going to the beach with family and friends is always the best outdoor activity especially since our weather's been beautiful lately.

Most of us have done an excellent job in picking up after ourselves, bringing an extra plastic bag to collect our garbage and some have even expanded family outings to include a beach cleanup before and after the food fest and day-long swimming. Unfortunately, we still fall short in protecting our environment when we use our vehicles on the beach.

Driving on the beach negatively impacts our resources, especially turtles, and coral reefs. These impacts include destroyed vegetation, sand compaction, beach erosion and pollutants entering the shoreline.

Here's a quick lesson to help you remember not to D.R.I.VE on the beach:

D - Cars *drip* oil and gas that pollutes the sand and ocean.

R – *ruts* in the sand, caused by driving, destroy turtle nesting sites.

I – it is also *illegal* to drive on the beach.

VE – driving on the beach destroys *vegetation*. Roots hold soil and keep it from *eroding* into the ocean.

In 2002, Coastal Resources Management teamed up with NMC-CREES, Fish and Wildlife, DEQ, and Public Safety, raising awareness about the law prohibiting beach driving. Since then, awareness efforts were expanded and school representations are ongoing. Two sites, Wing Beach and Obyan Beach, have benefited from limited vehicle access, seeing an improvement in water quality, increased vegetation and thus, restoring the reefs and enhancing the beaches for turtle nesting.

While other popular beaches do not have constructed parking areas such as the type at Obyan Beach, there are, however, natural boundaries in place that discourage driving on the beach which we should all respect.

As the summer slowly comes to an end, enjoy our clean waters and help protect them by not driving on the beach. ***(COCO)***

Before

After

Life & Style

Thousands pay tribute to Solzhenitsyn

MOSCOW (AP)—Thousands of Russians braved a pelting rain Tuesday to pay tribute to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, attending a formal mourning for the author, dissident and patriot that had all the trappings of an official lying-in-state ceremony.

A military honor guard stood next to Solzhenitsyn's open casket, placed in a hall at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow. Mourners filed by and placed long-stemmed flowers at the foot of the bier for the Nobel Literature Prize winner.

Solzhenitsyn's wife, Natalia, struggled to contain tears as she stood watch over her husband's coffin with her sons and grandchildren. At one point, she bent at the coffin and kissed its edge.

Vladimir Putin, now prime minister after eight years as president, was among the mourners who stopped to express his condolences.

Putin later called for Solzhenitsyn's works to become an important part of Russia's school curriculum.

"Together with the entire nation, he lived through a great tragedy of repressions," Putin said in a televised meeting with Russia's education minister. "But he not only lived through it, but ... by his works and his entire life, he inoculated our society against tyranny in all its forms."

Solzhenitsyn—who died Sunday at his home outside Moscow at age 89 from a chronic heart condition—is to be buried Wednesday at the Russian capital's Donskoi Monastery.

AP

Alexander Solzhenitsyn's son, Yermolai, mourns during the late Nobel Prize winner and dissident's farewell ceremony, in Moscow on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008. Shown from left in the background are, Solzhenitsyn's widow Natalya, sons Ignat and Stepan, and director of the Russian-language YMCA-Press publishing house Nikita Struve, who was the first to publish Alexander Solzhenitsyn's works in the west.

"He is a great citizen of Russia and my favorite writer," said Yevgeny Bystrov, 56, who held up a large black umbrella with one hand and red carnations in the other as the rain poured down.

"My favorite novel is 'Cancer Ward.' There is so much optimism in it, so much life affirmation. He never forces his ideas upon you, but rather asks you to meditate—and you come to understand its seriousness and greatness yourself," Bystrov added.

Most of the mourners were in their 50s and older, Russians who had read Solzhenitsyn's books when they were first published in the 1960s and 1970s.

"People with his understanding of life were our last hope," said a gray-haired woman who refused to give her name and described herself as a teacher. "Today young children are growing up and they don't know anything."

For Russians today, Solzhenitsyn is a stern figure from an age gone by, a man whose legacy was as thorny and complicated as his personality.

Solzhenitsyn's nonfiction trilogy, "The Gulag Archipelago," published in the 1970s, shocked the Soviet elite, helped destroy lingering support for the Soviet experiment in the West and inspired a generation of dissidents inside the Soviet Union.

Still, the response to Solzhenitsyn's death was muted here. The author, who spent 20 years of exile in the West following his expulsion from the Soviet Union in 1974, evoked little sympathy among those with fond memories of the Communist era.

Solzhenitsyn had also estranged himself from liberal reformers with his embrace of Putin's efforts to roll back democratic reforms in Russia.

Children are viewing violent films, says study

By Swati Pandey
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

The murderous fisherman isn't the only one who can claim, "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer."

Nearly 9 million children also know the gory details of the R-rated 1998 horror sequel about teenagers fleeing a stalker.

In a study published in the August issue of Pediatrics, Dartmouth Medical School researchers found that violent movies like "Last Summer" attract, on average, 12.5 percent of 10- to 14-year-olds in the country, with boys, minorities, and children whose parents don't restrict viewing habits seeing the most gore.

The study did not ask children how they were able to watch the films—whether by download, cable TV, renting or buying a DVD, or the old-fashioned way of sneaking into the theater.

But researchers said that as movies become more accessible, it's important to take note of the extent of kids' exposure to violence, especially since the ratings system can seem vague in describing how a film earned its rating. "It's quite striking that 10-year-olds are watching these movies," said Keilah A. Worth, lead author of the study. "Ten years old isn't that far away from believing in Santa Claus."

Researchers examined the viewing habits of more than 6,500 children, focusing on 40 "extremely violent" R-rated films released between 1998 and 2002.

The violent scenes run from the fantastic (vampire hunting in "Blade," seen by more than one-third of the group) to the realistic (the assaults in the police drama "Training Day," viewed by 27 percent of respondents).

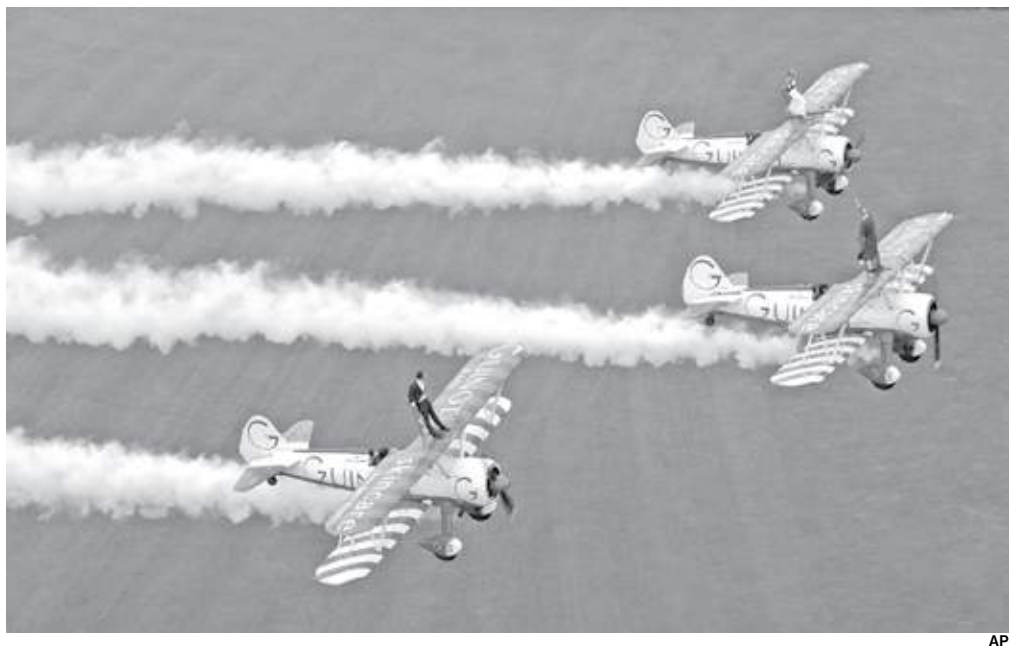
The Dartmouth study appears to go along with findings in a recent report from the Federal Trade Commission about under-age viewing. In 2007, the FTC released a report indicating that while only about 40 percent of children ages 13 to 16 were able to purchase R-rated movie tickets at theaters, nearly 80 percent were able to buy DVDs of similar movies.

The Motion Picture Association of America, which has a board that determines ratings, intends R-rated movies to be seen by children under 17 only if accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.

UK couple wed strapped to wings of 2 airplanes

LONDON (AP)—It was Katie and Darren's wedding day and they were in the clouds—strapped to the top of biplanes reciting vows 1,000 feet above the earth.

Katie Hodgson, 23, took to the skies Tuesday in a full bridal gown on the top wing of red-and-white plane operated by Team Guinot, a group of stunt pilots. Groom Darren McWalters, 24, flew by her side on an identical plane, while Rev. George Bringham—flying ahead of the couple—married them over an airborne communications system.



AP

Vicar George Brigham, right, conducts the marriage ceremony of Darren McWalters, left, and Katie Hodgson, as they fly over the English countryside near Rendcomb airfield, England, Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008.

Sky News television footage of the ceremony showed the bride's dressed fluttering wildly in foul weather as the three shouted to make themselves heard over the din of the aircraft.

"I ask you therefore, will you love her, honor and keep her and be faithful to her so long as you both shall live?" Bringham yelled.

"I will!" McWalters yelled back.

The airplanes sent out trails of white smoke as the couple belted out their vows about 1,000 feet above the ground. Special microphones relayed the ceremony to Rendcomb Airfield near the English city of Cirencester—90 miles west of London—where the wedding guests were waiting. Wind and rain eventually cut the flight short, but the couple said they had a blast.

Hodgson said that as a girl she never would have imagined she would wed on the wing of an airplane.

"As I got older I became more adventurous," she said, before adding: "I bring the adventurous side out of Darren—he used to be scared of heights."

McWalters told Sky: "We are a bit crazy together ... so we wanted something that suited."

AP

MANAGUAN FEAST

A man, covered in used car oil, shows an effigy of Managua's Patron Saint, Saint Dominic of Guzman, during the festivities honoring the saint in Managua, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

Paris Hilton issues tart rebuttal to McCain ad

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attention, America: Paris has spoken. Paris Hilton, the blonde, doe-eyed celebrity thrust into the presidential campaign in an ad by Republican candidate John McCain, issued a tart rebuttal Tuesday, albeit in a scantily clad, tongue-in-cheek kind of way.

Last week, McCain launched an ad comparing Democratic rival Barack Obama to Hilton and Britney Spears, suggesting Obama was no more than a celebrity candidate unready to lead the nation.

Hilton initially shied away from the debate over the ad and its effectiveness. But she responded Tuesday with a spoof on the comedy Web site Funny or Die.

"Hey America, I'm Paris Hilton and I'm a celebrity, too. Only I'm not from the olden days and I'm not promising change like that other guy. I'm just hot," Hilton said, speaking as she reclined in a pool chair in a revealing bathing suit and a pair of pumps. "But then that wrinkly, white-haired guy used me in his campaign ad, which I guess means I'm running for president. So thanks for the endorsement white-haired dude

"I want America to know that I'm, like, totally ready to lead," she said. She then discusses energy policy, and suggests a hybrid of McCain's offshore oil drilling plan and Obama's incentives for new energy technology.

"Energy crisis solved! I'll see you at the debates," she said,

McCain campaign spokesman Tucker Bounds said Hilton appears to support his candidate's "all of the above" energy solution.

"Paris Hilton might not be as big a celebrity as Barack Obama, but she obviously has a better energy plan," Bounds said.

Hilton's mother, who with her husband donated $4,600 to McCain's campaign earlier in the year, has said McCain's ad is "a complete waste of the country's time and attention at the very moment when millions of people are losing their homes and their jobs."

McCain's ad uses footage of Obama's reception by Germans during a recent trip to Berlin to dismiss him as just another celebrity. Obama's campaign has criticized the ad; McCain has defended it as humorous.

Hilton's rebuttal includes plenty of humor at McCain's expense.

An announcer calls him "the oldest celebrity in the world, like super-old, old enough to remember when dancing was a sin and beer was served in a bucket," and asks, "but is he ready to lead?" Hilton's spoof also intersperses images of McCain and Yoda from Star Wars and the cast of television's "The Golden Girls."

AP

U.S. actress and model Paris Hilton is seen when she visited the Tivoli amusement park in Copenhagen, Denmark, Tuesday Aug. 5, 2008 .

Johansson embarrassed by hoopla over Obama e-mails

AP

Penelope Cruz, left, and Scarlett Johansson, cast members in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona," pose together at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles, Monday, Aug. 4, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Scarlett Johansson can laugh about it now, but the actress says she was embarrassed by the media coverage of her so-called "e-mail relationship" with Barack Obama

"It seemed to me to be like a product of extreme sexism, and I kept thinking to myself, 'God, if this was just, like, Kal Penn or George Clooney or any of the other (Obama) surrogates or supporters ... there wouldn't be (any) question about it. Nobody would even talk about it," she said. Johansson, a vocal supporter of Obama, told the Web site Politico.com in June that she and the Democratic presidential hopeful had been trading e-mails. Obama later told reporters that Johansson doesn't have his personal e-mail address, and that his assistant forwarded one message from Johansson to which he replied.

"I was merely trying to express my delight at Obama's commitment to his campaign in every aspect and his interest and his support (in) his surrogates and his staff and his fellows, and how wonderful and refreshing that is. And it was manipulated into such an unfortunate media frenzy of kind of a nonstory," the 23-year-old actress said Tuesday in an interview from Los Angeles, where she was promoting her new Woody Allen film "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

The romantic comedy set against the bohemian backdrop of Barcelona, Spain, has its share of buzz over Johansson's much-hyped kiss with Penelope Cruz.

"It's just silly because ... the way people are talking about it you'd think it was ... a Bertolucci movie or something," Johansson said, laughing. "People are saying, `It's Woody Allen's steamiest movie.' I'm thinking, 'Woody Allen's steamiest WHAT?'"

It was the actress' third time working with Allen, who directed her in "Match Point" and "Scoop." She and actor-beau Ryan Reynolds had been snapped by paparazzi on the set of the movie last summer; she confirmed the couple's engagement in early May.

Have they set a date?

"We're just enjoying our time," she said. "We're just recently - very recently - engaged. So, you know, we're just taking it easy. And no big plan yet. But it's a good time and we're just ... enjoying our time to be young and engaged.

"I mean, I'm 23. There's no reason to rush into it. Everything feels very natural and relaxed."

Smith wins appeal for R rating for 'Porno'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Filmmaker Kevin Smith has won an appeal to lower the rating for his comedy "Zack and Miri Make a Porno" from an adults-only NC-17 to an R.

Motion Picture Association of America spokeswoman Elizabeth Kaltman said Tuesday the rating was revised after the group's appeals board viewed the movie.

"We didn't set out to make an NC-17 film. That's just commercial suicide," Smith told The Associated Press.

The NC-17 rating would have prohibited anyone younger than 17 from seeing it. With an R rating, those under 17 can see it in the company of an adult.

"Zack and Miri," due out Oct. 31 from the Weinstein Co., stars Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks as best friends and roommates who try to make a homemade porn flick to dig themselves out of debt.

Smith said the MPAA ratings board objected to two sex scenes involving costars Jason Mewes and Katie Morgan. After the movie's initial NC-17 rating, Smith said he trimmed those scenes as far as he was willing to go but was unable to convince the board to lower the rating.

Smith

"They felt it was rather sexually graphic. My point is, it was comically graphic. All the sex in the movie with the exception of one scene is very cartoonish, very campy," Smith said. "It wasn't designed to titillate."

The appeals board, a separate panel from the ratings board, viewed the movie Tuesday, and Smith presented his arguments. It was the third time Smith successfully talked his way down to a lower rating: His 1994 debut "Clerks" initially received an NC-17 rating that was reduced to an R on appeal, while his 2003 film "Jersey Girl" was reduced to PG-13 after first being rated R.

Smith said the title alone should be enough to caution audiences about the contents.

"Anybody not inclined to see a movie with `Porno' in the title is not going to see it, so it kind of regulates itself to a degree," Smith said. "And anybody who is going is not going to be surprised by what they see."

In Celebration of his New Life

VICENTE AYUYU ATALIG

Better Known as "Ben"

Born on January 02, 1948 • Died on July 31, 2008
at the age of 60

Predeceased by
Parents : †Onecimo O. & †Ana A. Atalig
Grandparents : †Vicente & †Julia Ayuyu
†Maria O. Conception
Parents In-Law : †Pedro and Juliana Apatang
Son In-Law : †Harvey T. Atalig
Uncles and Aunts : †Juan C. &†Maria M. Ayuyu, †Jose C. Ayuyu, †Cecilia A. Hocog, Annuciasion A. & Pedro Manglona, Rosa A. Mike Williams

Will be missed by
Stepmother : Maria A. Atalig
Loving Wife : Consolacion (Chong) Apatang Atalig

Children & Grand Children:
Julie Ann A. Atalig (Trudy Ann, Tonica, Harvey Jr.)(Rota)
Edwin F. & Laureen Dlc. Atalig (Nathan, Sabrina Lynn, L'Wina Lynn and Shawn) (Saipan)
Jennifer A. & Theodore M. Manglona (Kaydee, Theodore Jr., Theora, James) (Rota)
Sharon A. & Prudencio A. Manglona (Chanelle, Prudencio IV, Vincent, Alana, Roy, Deon)
Bradlee A. Atalig & Maria R. Agulto (Ginna, Emma, Ross, Nicole, Nicholas)
Yvonne A. & Godel Omengabar (San Diego)
Vicente Jr., A. & Tina T. Atalig (Andrea Juliana, Christina Ina, Cera Zaida)

Brothers/Sisters & Spouses:
Natividad Dlc./Francisco Borja †/†Jose Kaneshi & Chicldren
Angelina Dlc. Gregory & Children
†Manases A. and Amy Atalig & Children
John A. Atalig & Children
Jose A. & Cil Atalig & Children
Manuel A. & Jackie Atalig & Children
David A. Atalig & Children
Rose A. Atalig & Roger Sn. Taisacan & Children
George A. & Vivian C. Atalig & Children
Jim A. Atalig & Avery Cruz & Children
Jessica A. Atalig & Alex L. Maratita & Children
Marlinda A. Atalig & Royce M. Hocog & Children

Brothers/Sister In-Law: †Juan A. Apatang & Children
Maria A. & Jose Camacho & Children
†Alfred M. & Margarita T. Apatang & Children
Jose M. & Lucy Sn. Cruz & Children

Nightly Rosary is being said at 6:30 p.m. followed by Mass at 7:00 p.m. at San Isidro Church in Sinapalo (Rota).

On Friday, August 08, 2008, his remains will be brought to San Francisco De Borja Church for last respects from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:30 a.m followed by the burial at San Jose Cemetery.

Lunch will be served afterwards at the Roundhouse in Songsong Village, Rota.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Consolacion (Chong) Apatang Atalig
Children & Families

‘Dark Knight’ hits $400M in record time

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Add another entry for “The Dark Knight” in Hollywood’s record books: The Batman sequel has climbed past $400 million at the box office in just 18 days, the fastest pace ever, a studio executive said Tuesday.

As of Monday, “The Dark Knight” had taken in $400.04 million domestically, according to distributor Warner Bros.

Jeff Goldstein, general sales manager for Warner, said the film hit that mark in less than half the time it took for the previous record-holder, “Shrek 2,” which crossed the $400 million level on its 43rd day of release.

That put “The Dark Knight” at No. 8 on the all-time box-office charts. It was poised to move up to No. 7 on Tuesday, passing the $403.7 million haul of the original “Spider-Man” to become the top-grossing comic-book adaptation ever.

AP

In this image released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger stars as The Joker in “The Dark Knight.”

Warner expects the film to pass the original “Star Wars” ($461 million) in about two weeks, making it No. 2 on the all-time domestic list behind “Titanic” ($600.8 million).

Even as “The Dark Knight” heads toward the $500 million mark, it will lag behind “Titanic” and “Star Wars” in terms of the number of tickets sold because admission prices are higher now. In today’s dollars, the Batman film would have to take in about $900 million to match the number of tickets that “Titanic” sold.

“The Dark Knight” has earned wild acclaim from critics and fans, particularly for Heath Ledger’s maniacal delivery as Batman enemy the Joker. Buzz for his role and the film reached a fever in the months after Ledger’s death in January from an accidental prescription drug overdose.

The movie had a record opening weekend of $158.4 million.

“There’s no question Heath Ledger’s performance has made cinematic history. It’s one of the most important or memorable villains ever,” Goldstein said. “That added to it, but I think you have to look at a film in its entirety. It’s the marvelous job the filmmakers and the actors did.”

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Pineapple Express
Thursday 1:25 4:30 7:25
James Franco, Seth Rogen
Action, Comedy, Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis
Process server Dale Denton has a grudging business relationship with the laconic Saul Silver, deigning to visit only to purchase Saul’s primo product—a rare new strain of pot called Pineapple Express. But when Dale becomes the only witness to a murder by a crooked cop and the city’s most dangerous drug lord, he panics and dumps the Pineapple Express at the scene. When it’s traced back to him, Dale and Saul run for their lives—and they quickly discover that they’re not just suffering from weed-fueled paranoia.

★ ★ ★

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor
Thursday 1:05 4:15 7:05
Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

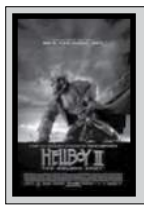
Synopsis
Doomed by a wronged sorceress, Zi Yuan, to spend eternity in suspended animation, China’s ruthless Dragon Emperor and his 10,000 warriors have laid forgotten for eons, entombed in clay as a vast, silent Terracotta Army. But when dashing adventurer AlexO’Connell is tricked into awakening the ruler from eternal slumber, the reckless young archaeologist must seek the help of the only people who know more than he does about taking down the undead: his parents.

The Step Brothers
Thursday 1:15 4:05 7:10
Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly
Comedy • Rated R

X Files: I Want to Believe
Thursday @ 4:20 @
David Duchovny, Gillian Anderson
Thriller, Sci-Fi, Supernatural • Rated PG

Dark Knight
Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Mamma Mia
Thursday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan
Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



Hellboy II
Thursday 1:10 @ 7:15
Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Hancock
Thursday 1:30 4:25 7:30
Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Freeman in ‘good spirits’ after car crash surgery

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Morgan Freeman is doing well after surgery to reconnect nerves and repair damage to his left arm and hand following a car wreck Sunday night, his publicist said.

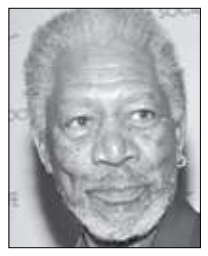
The surgery Monday night “lasted approximately four and a half hours including recovery and he is in good spirits and was visiting with family members this morning,” Donna Lee, Freeman’s publicist, said in a statement Tuesday.

“He was walking this (morning), and is looking forward to his release as soon as possible,” Lee said.

Freeman, 71, and Demaris Meyer, 48, of Memphis, Tenn., were taken to the Regional Medical Center in Memphis following the accident on a dark stretch of rural Mississippi Delta highway in Tallahatchie County. State troopers said the car careened off the highway and flipped end-over-end before landing upright in a ditch. Rescuers used a jaws-of-life machine to free “The Dark Knight” star and Meyer from the wreckage of the car.

Freeman was airlifted about 90 miles to the Regional Medical Center where he was treated for a broken arm, broken elbow and shoulder damage, Lee said.

Bill Rogers, a retired police officer, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he witnessed the accident near the small town of Charleston, not far from where Freeman owns a home with his wife.



Freeman

Rogers said Freeman complained of pain from injuries before being loaded onto a medical helicopter, but “was more concerned about the people around him than himself.”

“Mr. Freeman thought he may have gone to sleep but he wasn’t sure,” Rogers said. “He didn’t know what happened.”

“The car was bent on the front as well as rear - I mean severely,” Rogers said. “It was so bad I couldn’t tell what it was.”

The Mississippi Highway Patrol is still investigating the accident, Sgt. Ben Williams said Tuesday. Alcohol and drugs don’t appear to be a factor and no citations are likely to be filed, he said.

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Stringer said Freeman remained in serious condition Tuesday. Meyer’s name wasn’t in the hospital registry, Stringer said. However, under medical privacy laws, people can request that their names not be listed as patients at a hospital.

Williams said Meyer was in the Memphis hospital when the Highway Patrol checked Monday night and both she and Freeman were in “good spirits.”

Rogers said he was “watching television about 11:15 and I heard a car sliding on the highway out in front of our house.”

“As I looked out the window, I saw it began to flip after it hit our next-door neighbor’s drive. It went end-over-end about twice and then it came back on its wheels in the ditch. It was a mess,” he said.

Broadway gets ready for ‘White Christmas’

NEW YORK (AP)—Get ready to celebrate “Irving Berlin’s White Christmas” on Broadway.

A stage version of the celluloid classic will play New York this holiday season, Nov. 14-Jan. 4 at the Marquis Theatre.

“It’s a quintessential seasonal family show,” producer Kevin McCollum said Monday in announcing the limited engagement. “And hopefully we’ll start making some memories with it.”

The musical is based on the 1954 movie that starred Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen. The plot concerns a couple of show-biz veterans who travel to Vermont to put on a show. Of course, there’s romance involved.

“White Christmas” has been adapted by David Ives and will be directed by Walter Bobbie, who oversaw the long-running revival of “Chicago.” Casting and an opening date will be announced shortly, said McCollum, producer of Broadway hits such as “Rent,” “Avenue Q” and “In the Heights.”

The stage show first appeared in 2004 in San Francisco and since then has played cities such as Los Angeles, Boston and Toronto. This year, in addition to New York, other companies of “White Christmas” will be seen in Detroit and St. Paul, Minn., McCollum said.

He called the show “a reinvention of the movie, not a revival - because there is so much more music and the story is enhanced.” In addition to the title song, “White Christmas” includes Berlin standards such as “Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep,” “I Love a Piano,” “Blue Skies,” “How Deep Is the Ocean” and “I’ve Got My Love to Keep Me Warm.”

“White Christmas” is a big dance show with a lot of spectacle, according to the producer—with a cast of 32, nearly two dozen musicians and a large backstage crew.

AP

A tape recording allegedly of The Beatles chatting and breaking into giggles during an early recording session in the early 1960's on show at an auction house in Reading, England, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2008.

Newly discovered Beatles tape sells for $23,000

LONDON (AP)—A newly discovered tape of The Beatles laughing and chatting during an early recording session has sold for about $23,000, an auction house reported Tuesday.

Cameo Auctioneers said the reel-to-reel tape was recorded in 1964 and had recently been discovered by a man in northern England while he was clearing out his father's attic.

The half-hour tape sold to an Internet bidder Tuesday afternoon for $23,446 including tax and the buyer's premium, the auction house said, adding that it had yet to contact the winner.

The tape features John Lennon and Paul McCartney collapsing into fits of giggles as they try to finish the ballad "I'll Follow the Sun."

It also carries versions of songs including "I Feel Fine," "I'm a Loser" and "Don't Put Me Down Like This."

Study: Network TV likes sex, but not in marriage

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Marriage gets little respect on network TV shows that instead revel in the pleasures of extramarital and even kinky sex, according to a study released Tuesday.

The study by the Parents Television Council includes a strongly worded condemnation of prime-time TV, contending it "seems to be actively seeking to undermine marriage by consistently painting it in a negative light."

Even more troubling, according to the watchdog group, is what it characterized as TV's recent obsession with what it termed "outre" or bizarre behavior, including partner swapping and pedophilia.

As for references to pornography, sex toys and "kinky" behavior, those are now common on TV, the report said. Visual references to practices such as voyeurism and sadomasochistic sex outnumbered married-sex references by a ratio approaching 3 to 1.

The effect on young viewers is dire, the Parents Television Council contends.

Behavior that once was seen as "fringe, immoral or socially destructive have been given the imprimatur of acceptability by the television industry" and children are absorbing or even imitating it, the report contends.

Melissa Lawson wins NBC's 'Nashville Star'

Lawson

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A Texas mother of five is the new "Nashville Star."

Melissa Lawson beat fellow finalist Gabe Garcia on Monday night for the title on the country music reality series. Shawn Mayer came in third.

The 32-year-old Lawson was overjoyed at winning, shouting, "Oh my God!" She then performed her new single, "What If It All Goes Right." Lawson wins a record contract after performing in Nashville, Tennessee, for 11 weeks.

The series has launched the careers of Miranda Lambert, Buddy Jewel and Chris Young. It switched to NBC this year after five seasons on cable's USA Network.

Dallas Opera co-founder Rescigno dies in Italy

ROME (AP)—Nicola Rescigno, the co-founder of the Dallas Opera and one of Maria Callas' favorite conductors, has died at a hospital in Italy, officials said Tuesday. He was 92.

Rescigno died Monday of complications following heart failure and breathing problems, said Corrado Ricci, a doctor at the Belcolle hospital in Viterbo, a town about 50 miles north of Rome. Rescigno had been admitted on July 30 with a broken femur, following a fall. But Ricci said that at that point, he was already in serious condition. Jonathan Pell, the Dallas Opera director of artistic administration, said he received a call Monday afternoon from Rescigno's nephew, who had been informed of his uncle's death by the hospital.

Pell said Rescigno "went to sleep and didn't wake up."

The New York-born Rescigno moved to music after a receiving a law degree at Rome's La Sapienza university. His career was largely spent in the United States.

He conducted Callas' debut in America, eventually becoming one of the star soprano's favorite conductors throughout a cooperation that spanned several years, performances and recordings.

"He knew how to bring together orchestra and singing, doing everything possible to bring out the best singing performance," said Elvio Giudici, a leading opera critic. "It is not by chance that he worked with Callas when she had her small vocal problems."

Rescigno and the late Lawrence V. Kelly founded the Dallas Opera in 1957, with Rescigno taking the job of artistic director.

According to the theater's Web site, the theater opened with a concert by Callas in November of that year.

After Kelly's death in 1974, Rescigno took on the role of general director as well.

Rescigno was also a co-founder of the Lyric Opera of Chicago and conducted at the Royal Opera Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera and Vienna State Opera. His recordings include recitals with Callas and Luciano Pavarotti.

During his career, Rescigno also toured some of the most important opera theaters in Italy, including Rome's Opera House, the San Carlo in Naples and La Fenice in Venice.

"He was of the old school. He knew the repertoire backwards," said Giudici. "He could solve any problem because he knew the subject really well."

"Adjust the sound, the orchestra, the timing, the dynamics to the conditions of any given night: this is something that old-time directors could do really well," said Giudici.

Pell said plans to honor Rescigno by the Dallas Opera will be announced later.

Teen's penchant for piercing earns him unwanted attention

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am an 18-year-old male, and every day I face judgment, cruel remarks, disapproving stares and other harassment.

The reason? I want to be a tattoo and piercing artist. I currently have one tattoo (which my shirtsleeve covers) and more than 20 piercings. Eight of the piercings are in my face, and most of the others are in my ears. My main ear holes are stretched out to a half-inch.

I can't walk down the street without hearing some comment, or someone stopping and staring, slack-jawed. Even friendly inquiries are becoming irritating. I'm passionate about tattoos and piercings and have been since childhood. I chose my piercings to balance each other and create an art form on my face and ears.

At school I was judged and stereotyped at the beginning of each year and would go out of my way to prove I am a nice, respectable human being with feelings. Now, with a new school term approaching, how can I get people to stop judging me and asking dumb questions like, "How bad did that hurt?"

FUTURE SKIN ARTIST, PORT HURON, MICH.

DEAR FUTURE SKIN ARTIST: You have chosen to look different, so you shouldn't be surprised at the staring and the questions. The sooner you realize it and learn to answer the questions without being defensive, the better your chances will be of being accepted.

P.S. Perhaps in the future you should consider moving to Los Angeles. In this town everyone has seen almost everything, and people who are different are less shocking.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been dating "Daryl" for four years. We're very much in love and usually get along well. The problem is I'm a scheduled-oriented person. I like to plan ahead what we're going to do and what time we're going to do it.

Daryl, on the other hand, hates schedules and sometimes flat-out refuses to commit to something because he "doesn't want to be tied down" to one.

I have tried to be more flexible, and I think Daryl has tried to bend a little for me, too. However, I'm worried that this issue will eventually come between us. I don't want to break up with him over it because I really do love him, and this seems like a petty thing. Please advise.

CLOCKING IN FROM ILLINOIS

DEAR CLOCKING IN: Your concerns are not petty. I don't know how "loosey-goosey" Daryl is, but men who "refuse to commit" and "don't want to be tied down" are often not only extremely disorganized, but also confirmed bachelors.

You and Daryl have been dating for four years. Please give serious consideration to whether this is the way you want to spend the rest of your life, because your differences will be a constant source of friction.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Could you please tell me at what age a person can claim to be a senior citizen? Also, at what age is one considered a senior citizen in a restaurant?

OLD ENOUGH? IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR OLD ENOUGH?: I have known some people in their 20s, already jaded with life, who were "older" than many vibrant people in their 80s who claim to be 80 years "young." Years ago, individuals were considered to be seniors at 65. But then, to the disconcertment of many, AARP began soliciting people at age 50. It seems the age of eligibility for "seniorhood" dropped as they became a financial demographic that attracted marketers.

The specific age to qualify for seniorhood isn't carved in granite—as you will find in various restaurants and movie theaters. Start asking around and you'll see what I mean.

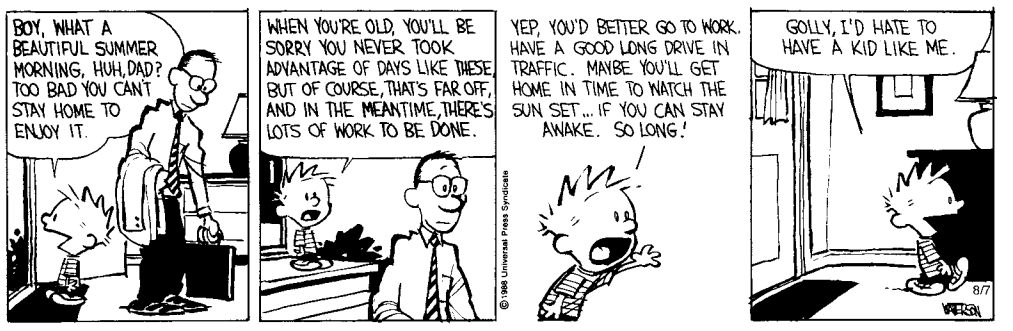
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


BOY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER MORNING, HUH, DAD? TOO BAD YOU CAN'T STAY HOME TO ENJOY IT.
WHEN YOU'RE OLD, YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU NEVER TOOK ADVANTAGE OF DAYS LIKE THESE. BUT OF COURSE, THAT'S FAR OFF, AND IN THE MEANTIME, THERE'S LOTS OF WORK TO BE DONE.
YEP, YOU'D BETTER GO TO WORK. HAVE A GOOD LONG DRIVE IN TRAFFIC. MAYBE YOU'LL GET HOME IN TIME TO WATCH THE SUN SET... IF YOU CAN STAY AWAKE. SO LONG!
GOLLY, I'D HATE TO HAVE A KID LIKE ME.
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8/7

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

Dear Adam@Home,
How do you maintain your sanity working at home with three kids?
BRYAN BASSET
©2008 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYND.
I have imaginary co-workers to talk to.
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
8/7

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

Hi. I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT AN EXCITING OFFER!
WHAT'S THE OFFER?
2x3 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
8-7
YOU MAIL ME TWENTY BUCKS, AND I'LL STOP CALLING EVERY TIME YOU SIT DOWN TO DINNER.
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

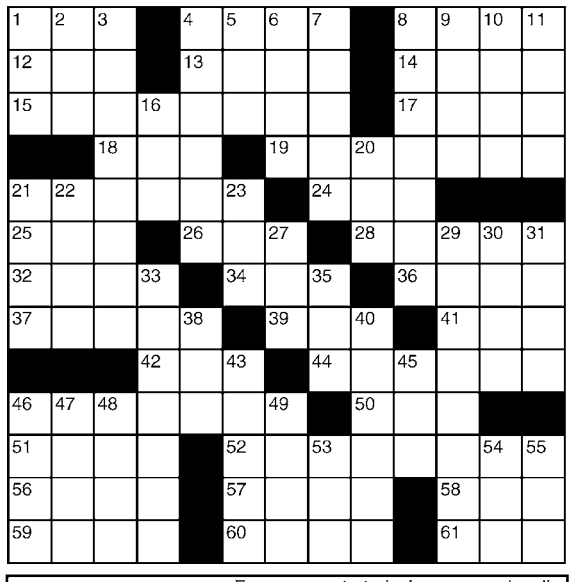
ACROSS
1 Dopey companion?
4 Cripple
8 False deity
12 Mendes or Longoria
13 Destroy
14 Additionally
15 Dry red wine
17 Waikiki wingding
18 Evil
19 Try
21 Spread outward
24 Lummox
25 Trail the pack
26 Ingredient in 44-Across
28 Huey, Louie and Dewey
32 From the beginning
34 Follow relentlessly
36 Actress Turner
37 Harass
39 "Humbug!"
41 Cranberry territory
42 Charged bit
44 Trendy cocktail
46 Interrupt rudely
50 Pale
51 Beehive State
52 Nightclubs
56 Leave out
57 State with certainty
58 Ball prop
59 Strong desires
60 Act
61 Witnessed

DOWN
1 Year-end abbr.
2 Eggs
3 Kale and kohlrabi
4 Whodunit occurrence
5 Designer Taylor
6 Concept
7 Words to live by
8 Sinister
9 Grad
10 Now, on a memo
11 Boorish sort
16 Listener
20 Young Mr. Lincoln
21 Toning target
22 Kent co-worker
23 Flop
27 Unruly crowd
29 Kitchen storage areas
30 Entanglement
31 Palm starch
33 Burdens
35 Whale group
38 Pirouette pivot
40 Stern or Cosell
43 Rechargeable battery
45 Cookie holder
46 Channel marker
47 "Don't throw bouquets —"
48 Ballgame delayer
49 Church section
53 Spelldown
54 Afternoon quaff
55 Stitch

Solution time: 25 mins.

K	O	I		M	E	S	A		D	A	N	A
I	D	O		A	G	I	N		E	D	I	T
N	O	T		N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E
G	R	A	P	H				I	I	I		
			O	O	P	S		S	C	O	L	D
W	E	S	T	L	A	K	E		T	R	E	E
I	R	E		E	N	O	L	S		N	N	E
T	I	E	R		E	A	S	T	W	O	O	D
H	E	M	A	N		L	E	E	R			
			F	O	E			T	Y	P	E	A
S	O	U	T	H	P	A	W	S		E	R	G
A	N	T	E		O	L	I	O		A	G	O
P	E	A	R		S	I	G	N		L	O	G

Yesterday's answer 8-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina O'Brien, 25; Charlize Theron, 33; David Duchovny, 48; Garrison Keillor, 66

Happy Birthday: Don't do anything halfway. Dream it, believe it and do it. Make wise, well-thought-out changes that will make a difference. This is your year to shine if you choose what's right and ethical. Practical applications with a unique twist will show your ability to overcome and outdo. Your numbers are 1, 4, 15, 19, 22, 33

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't leave things for another day. Once your to-do list starts adding up, you'll be behind and overwhelmed. Concentrate on whatever task is most important. Once you finish, you will forget your troubles and feel satisfied that you got some chores out of the way. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Everything is going your way, so stop complaining and start taking advantage of what's available to you. Love is on the rise and outings with friends will lead to some interesting encounters. Someone from your past will be happy to hear from you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The less time spent at home, the less trouble you will get into. Arguments can be avoided if you remove yourself from the situation. You should be doing things that interest you and that allow you to explore your imaginative or creative side. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can pick up some fabulous information and ideas by participating in an event that interests you. Travel, love and romance and learning all go hand-in-hand. Don't let emotional matters slow you down. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Show sensitivity to the people you partner with. Compromise will get you much further ahead. A planned networking event will help you convince others that you are onto something good. A unique approach will capture plenty of interest. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take action and make alterations that will place you in a better personal and professional position. Do the work yourself if you want to improve your surroundings. An emotional encounter with someone will bring you closer together. A powerful approach to love will have good results. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may get trapped into doing things that you don't want to do if you brag about your talents. Let others contribute for now. Clear up your own responsibilities first. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put emotional issues aside. A sudden turn of events will be good for you. It can develop by networking, through email phone or in person, so touch base with the movers and shakers in your industry. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't give in to emotional blackmail. It will only cause you to make promises you aren't going to keep, leading to more trouble. Take a trip to visit someone you respect or attend a conference with people who can help you move up the ladder. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You stand to advance quickly if you make the right choices. Money settlements, legal matters and contracts are all doable if you push for what you want. Winnings, gifts, love and romance are heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone may play an emotional trick on you. Don't fall for the bait, especially if it will cost you financially. Deception on your part or someone else's will cause a relationship to roller coaster out of control. Better to be honest and upfront. ✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't be lazy. Money is the name of the game today and, if you take an unusual approach to how you handle financial, professional or even legal matters, you will get what you want. Make sure you have valid motives. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: Your concern for others is commendable. You are a leader who has compassion and what it takes to get things done right. You attract attention and popularity.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		3			1		
1		6		5				
	4				8			2
2						8		
	1						9	
		4						6
7			8				1	
				2		3		7
		2			6		8	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	8	7	4	3	5	9	1
3	1	7	9	5	8	2	6	4
9	4	5	6	2	1	3	8	7
2	3	4	5	6	9	1	7	8
7	9	1	8	3	2	6	4	5
8	5	6	1	7	4	9	2	3
4	6	3	2	1	7	8	5	9
1	8	2	4	9	5	7	3	6
5	7	9	3	8	6	4	1	2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/06

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CURES THAT WORK **Solution: 6 letters**

T	T	E	E	S	U	N	I	S	M	E	E	E	H	E
T	N	E	M	T	N	I	O	E	O	G	H	C	C	M
N	E	A	F	E	I	R	S	T	D	N	C	N	A	U
E	M	X	D	F	R	L	U	I	E	A	A	E	N	S
M	E	H	P	I	E	T	U	B	R	H	R	I	D	C
T	L	H	T	E	X	C	X	L	N	C	A	C	L	L
A	P	O	P	W	R	O	T	E	L	X	E	S	E	E
E	P	M	Y	V	O	I	I	I	E	E	H	L	S	P
R	U	E	D	R	I	R	M	T	V	A	C	I	P	I
T	S	M	O	K	I	N	G	E	N	E	G	O	L	C
E	K	A	B	S	A	F	E	G	N	A	R	I	A	E
E	I	D	E	Y	E	S	O	G	R	T	T	O	N	R
T	N	E	E	C	I	V	D	A	A	I	E	B	T	G
H	D	R	E	M	E	D	Y	D	E	R	A	H	S	S
S	T	I	U	R	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	H	A	L

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Advice, Aging, Antioxidant, Bites, Body, Burns, Candles, Cellulite, Earache, Effective, Enhance, Exchange, Experiment, Extreme, Eyes, Flowers, Fruits, Growth, Hair, Hangover, Homemade, Modern, Muscle, Oils, Ointment, Plants, Recipe, Remedy, Safe, Science, Seeds, Shared, Sinus, Skin, Sleep, Smoking, Store, Supplement, Teas, Teeth, Treatment, Vinegar

Yesterday's Answer: Edit

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

GIN ALE RUM
HOW HOW HOW

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2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PA
There is still hope for nonimm
joins Micronesia si
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

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• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Bay, Beckett lead Boston in 8-2 win over Royals

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—Jason Bay had four hits and two RBIs and Josh Beckett pitched effectively into the seventh inning to help the Boston Red Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 8-2 on Tuesday .

Beckett, 0-3 with a 5.31 earned run average while allowing 29 hits in 20 1-3 innings in his previous three starts, held the Royals to four hits and two runs in 6 2-3 innings. He struck out seven and walked two.

Beckett (10-8) gave up an RBI double to Mark Teahen in the first, and after Alex Gordon led off the second with a single, Beckett retired 16 of the next 17 he faced. He improved to 3-0 in five career starts against Kansas City.

The Red Sox remained three games behind Tampa Bay in the American League East.

Rays 8, Indians 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Evan Longoria, Dioner Navarro and Cliff Floyd homered to help Tampa Bay beat Cleveland.

Longoria's two-run drive in Tampa Bay's four-run seventh was his 22nd of the season, setting a team record for a rookie. Longoria hit two long drives that landed in foul territory then took a pitch before connecting against Rafael Betancourt.

Edwin Jackson (8-7) won his third consecutive start, giving up three runs and seven hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Jhonny Peralta hit a two-run homer in the third for Cleveland. Fausto Carmona (5-4) lasted just four innings in his third start since returning from a left hip strain.

Rangers 8, Yankees 6

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton hit his 27th homer, rookie Matt Harrison pitched into the seventh inning and Texas hung on to beat New York.

The Yankees lost their second straight to the Rangers, have dropped seven of 10 and fell 6 1/2 games behind AL-East leading Tampa Bay.

Texas took an 8-2 lead into the eighth, but Richie Sexson's grand-slam off C.J. Wilson made it a two-run game.

Harrison (3-2) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. He started the night with a 7.40 ERA.

Yankees starter Andy Pettitte (12-9) allowed five runs and six hits in five-plus innings.

Blue Jays 4, Athletics 3

At Toronto, Kevin Mench singled in the winning run with two outs in the ninth inning and Toronto extended Oakland's season-long losing streak to eight games.

Toronto trailed 3-2 heading into the bottom of the ninth against Oakland closer Huston Street. Alex Rios led off with a single and scored one out later when Rod Barajas doubled over the head of left fielder Ryan Sweeney.

Adam Lind was walked intentionally and Scott Rolen advanced both runners with an infield chopper before Mench lined the first pitch he saw into the left-center field alley, scoring Barajas.

Orioles 3, Angels 0

At Anaheim, California, Chris Waters held the team with baseball's best record to one hit over eight innings in his major league debut, and Baltimore beat Los Angeles.

The AL West-leading Angels totaled 23 runs in Garland's previous two starts, including an 11-6 win at Camden Yards. But all they could muster against Waters (1-0) was a leadoff single in the second inning by Vladimir Guerrero.

All-Star closer George Sherrill earned his 31st save in 37 chances, allowing a leadoff single in the ninth by Erick Aybar.

Jon Garland (10-7) allowed three runs and nine hits over seven innings, including Luke Scott's 19th homer in the seventh. The right-hander came in 6-0 with a 3.30 ERA in his nine previous starts against AL East clubs this season, and was 4-6 with a 5.08 ERA in 13 starts against other teams. Garland did not record a strikeout or a walk.

Mariners 8, Twins 7

At Seattle, Raul Ibanez drove in five more runs and the Mariners rallied in the bottom of the eighth Twins closer Joe Nathan, dropping Minnesota out of first in the AL Central.

Jose Lopez lined a two-out, two-run double off Nathan to help Seattle retake the lead after the Mariners' 6-3 lead evaporated in the top of the eighth.

The Twins scored four times in the eighth, capped by pinch-hitter Mike Lamb's own two-out, two-run double off Seattle closer J.J. Putz (4-4) to take a 7-6 lead.

But that advantage was short-lived as the Twins' bullpen again melted down on the road. Ichiro Suzuki led off the bottom of the eight with a single off Matt Guerrier (6-5) and after a pop up, Raul Ibanez dribbled his third hit of the night into right field.

White Sox 10, Tigers 8, 14 innings

At Chicago, Nick Swisher hit a three-run homer with two outs in the bottom of the 14th inning and the White Sox rallied for four runs off Joel Zumaya to beat Detroit.

Detroit had taken an 8-6 lead in the top of the inning when Placido Polanco hit his second homer of the game, a two-run shot off Matt Thornton.

But Detroit's bullpen woes continued. Zumaya (0-1) gave up a single to Orlando Cabrera and a double to Carlos Quentin. When Tigers' shortstop Edgar Renteria fumbled Jermaine Dye's grounder for an error, Cabrera scored and the lead was down to one.

After Jim Thome struck out for the second out, Swisher homered into the right-center field seats. Swisher had entered the game in the 11th after Paul Konerko had been removed for a pinch-runner in the 10th.

Phillies 8, Marlins 2

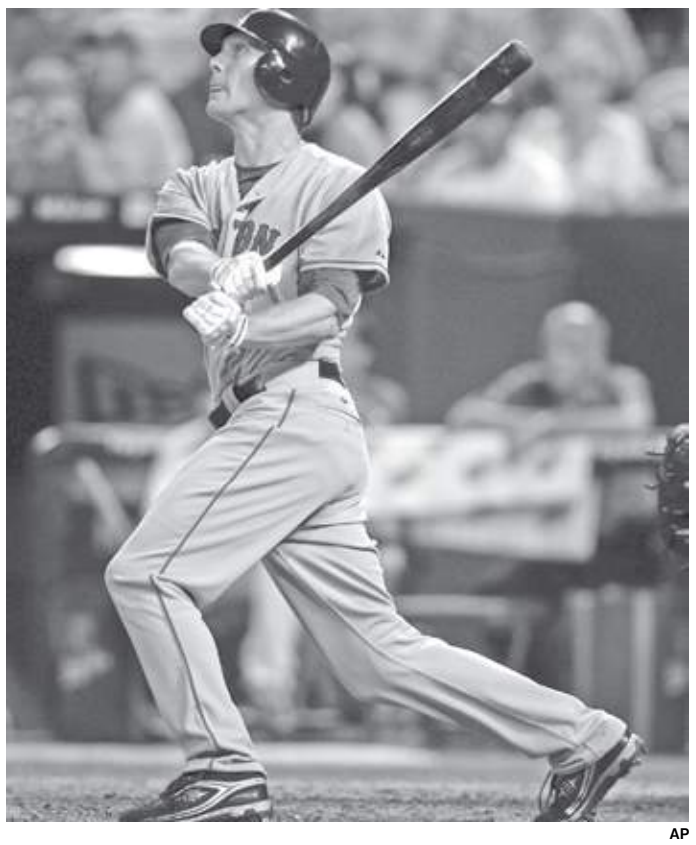
At Philadelphia, Josh Johnson pitched six scoreless innings, Jeremy Hermida drove in four runs and the Florida Marlins beat the Philadelphia Phillies in a matchup of the two top teams in the National League East.

The Marlins, who have by far the smallest payroll in the majors, closed within 1 1/2 games of first-place Philadelphia. The New York Mets are two games behind.

Johnson (2-0) allowed five hits and overcame four walks in his fifth start since returning from reconstructive elbow surgery in August 2007. The Marlins improved to 5-0 in his starts this year.

Jamie Moyer (10-7) fell to 10-1 against the Marlins. The 45-year-old left-hander uncharacteristically struggled with his control and gave up two runs and six hits in five innings. He walked three and hit two batters.

Shane Victorino hit a two-out, two-run homer off Renyel Pinto to cut the deficit in half in the seventh.



AP

Boston Red Sox's Jason Bay watches his RBI double during a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals in the seventh inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, in Kansas City, Mo.

Braves 11, Giants 4

At San Francisco, Mike Hampton earned his first victory in nearly three years and hit an RBI double, leading Atlanta to the win over Atlanta.

The 35-year-old Hampton had to feel great about this outing: He hadn't won since Aug. 14, 2005, for the Braves against Arizona—1,087 days earlier. And this was just his third start of 2008 after he returned July 26 following a nearly three-year absence in which the two-time All-Star underwent two major surgeries on his left elbow. This season, he was sidelined by both a strained chest muscle and an injured groin.

Fred Lewis ended a 12-game homerless streak by San Francisco with a solo shot leading off the seventh. Jonathan Sanchez (8-8) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings.

Brewers 8, Reds 1

At Cincinnati, Prince Fielder made amends by apologizing, then hit a two-run homer that helped Milwaukee beat Cincinnati and quickly move beyond their ugly altercation in the dugout.

The Brewers were on their best behavior a day after Fielder shoved pitcher Manny Parra in the dugout during a series-opening loss. Fielder apologized before the game on Tuesday, then helped Milwaukee's uptight offense relax by hitting his sixth homer in his last nine games.

Right-hander Dave Bush (6-9) allowed only three hits in seven innings, retiring 17 consecutive batters at one point.

Cubs 11, Astros 7

At Chicago, Alfonso Soriano hit a tiebreaking, three-run homer in the seventh inning and Chicago rallied after blowing a five-run lead to Houston.

Soriano's 20th homer highlighted a five-run burst and sent the NL Central-leading Cubs to their eighth win in 10 games.

The Cubs also welcomed back Kerry Wood. The All-Star closer pitched a scoreless eighth after missing three weeks with a blister on his right index finger.

Soriano drove in four runs. The Astros, who came back from a 6-1 deficit to take the lead, had their four-game winning streak stopped. Chris Sampson (5-4) took the loss.

Mets 6, Padres 5

At New York, Fernando Tatis homered twice and drove in four runs, giving New York's mix-and-match bullpen enough breathing room to close out San Diego without injured Billy Wagner.

Mike Pelfrey (10-7) pitched effectively into the seventh inning to help the Mets end a four-game skid, hours after they put Wagner on the 15-day disabled list with a strained left forearm.

Scott Schoeneweis became the first Mets reliever besides Wagner to earn a save this season when he retired Brian Giles on his only pitch.

Kevin Kouzmanoff, Adrian Gonzalez and Jody Gerut homered for the Padres. Gerut's three-run drive off Aaron Heilman cut it to 6-5 in the ninth.

Diamondbacks 3, Pirates 1

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb became the first 16-game winner in the major leagues, tossing a nine-hitter for his third complete game for Arizona.

Webb (16-4) carried a shutout into the ninth but surrendered a leadoff double to Freddie Sanchez and an RBI single to Doug Mientkiewicz. The Pirates put runners on second and third with one out before Webb struck out Brandon Moss and Jason Michaels to finish the game in an efficient 1 hour, 55 minutes.

Webb had his signature sinker working most of the night, getting 21 outs on grounders in his third straight win. He struck out four and walked none in his 15th career complete game.

Rockies 8, Nationals 2

At Denver, Brad Hawpe's bases-loaded, two-run single in the bottom of the eighth sparked a six-run rally and Colorado rallied to beat Washington.

Manny Corpas (2-3) pitched one inning in relief of Jorge De La Rosa, who struck out six in seven innings, and Ian Stewart hit his fifth home run of the season for the Rockies.

Luis Ayala (1-7) pitched one-third of an inning and took the loss for the Nationals, who had their four-game winning streak snapped.

The Rockies trailed 2-0 when pinch-hitter Stewart hit a two-run homer in the seventh, and they broke open the game in the eighth thanks to four walks and two hit batters by the Washington bullpen.

Cardinals 6, Dodgers 4, 11 innings

At St. Louis, Ryan Ludwick hit a two-run home run in the 11th inning off Jason Johnson, a starter called into duty, to give St. Louis a win over Los Angeles.

Ludwick' 28th homer, his fifth in four games, allowed the Cardinals to recover after the bullpen blew a four-run ninth-inning lead for its major league-leading 27th blown save.

Adam Kennedy singled to start the inning and Ludwick hit a 2-1 pitch over the center-field wall with one out for his third career game-winning homer, and first since May 17 against the Rays.

Chamberlain to visit Dr. Andrews after MRI

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—New York Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain will be examined by noted orthopedic surgeon Dr. James Andrews on Wednesday after undergoing an MRI on his ailing right shoulder.

Chamberlain returned to New York for tests on his shoulder Tuesday. The team said before its game against the Texas Rangers that it would not reveal the results of the MRI exam until Chamberlain is seen by Andrews in Birmingham, Ala.

"He'll take his test results with him," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "Until I hear from Dr. Andrews, that's all I've got."

Chamberlain was removed from Monday night's start against the Texas Rangers in the fifth inning with what the club announced was a stiff right shoulder.

On Tuesday, Chamberlain flew back to New York and underwent a series of tests, including an MRI, at Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan.

The Yankees are already without No. 1 starter Chien-Ming Wang and right-hander Phil Hughes. Subtracting Chamberlain from the rotation would be a huge blow to the team's postseason chances.

"I think we're all hopeful," Girardi said. "I hope we don't miss him for very long. But you think of a guy of Joba's caliber and you know he's going to miss a start, that doesn't mean the guy who replaces him can't pitch well."

Girardi said the 22-year-old right-hander would probably miss his next turn in the rotation. Anything longer would be a setback for the injury-riddled Yankees pitching staff.

"I envision him not making his next start," Girardi said. "Beyond that, I can't say."

Girardi said his options for replacing Chamberlain include moving right-hander Darrell Rasner back into the rotation or recalling a pitcher from Triple-A Scranton.

Girardi said the Yankees will be cautious with Chamberlain, even in a close playoff race.

"You're always careful with your players," Girardi said. "You don't want to jeopardize their long-term health. And we're talking about a 22-year-old kid here."

Brett Favre leaves Lambeau after 'honest' discussions

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The bond between Brett Favre and the Green Bay Packers appears to be broken beyond repair. Packers coach Mike McCarthy said Tuesday evening that after approximately six hours of what he called "brutally honest" conversations with Favre over the past two days, the three-time MVP just isn't in the right mind-set to be part of the team.

Even with the chance to win his starting job back potentially on the table, McCarthy said Favre couldn't seem to get past emotional wounds that were opened as tensions mounted in recent weeks.

"The football team's moving forward," McCarthy said. "The train has left the station, whatever analogy you want. He needs to jump on the train and let's go. Or, if we can't get past things that have happened, I have to keep the train moving."

McCarthy said he and Favre made plans to speak later Tuesday evening, but McCarthy didn't seem to allow for the possibility that anything significant would change.

A trade could be coming next, with Tampa Bay re-emerging as a potential destination after seemingly being eliminated from consideration in recent weeks. McCarthy wouldn't address trade talks, but did say a quick resolution to the situation is important to the rest of his players.

AP

Brett Favre, right talks with ESPN's Rachel Nichols after attending meetings at Lambeau Field, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008, in Green Bay, Wis.

"Absolutely," McCarthy said. "The players, they want it resolved. Even talk to Brett about it—he feels bad about it. It's time for them to talk about somebody else."

Favre left Lambeau Field just before Packers practice Tuesday afternoon, taking a right turn out of the stadium's back gate and heading away from the field where the rest of his teammates were assembling for drills.

Favre emerged from the stadium's loading dock exit at 2:34 p.m. EDT Tuesday, hugging Packers senior security advisor Jerry Parins before getting in his SUV and driving away. Shortly after, an SUV driven by Packers general manager Ted Thompson left the gate heading in the same direction.

"We're at a stalemate," Favre told ESPN Tuesday morning. "Mike and I both agreed last night that me being out there is a distraction and will continue to be a distraction. We all know the reason I'm here is because the commissioner reinstated me so we have a lot of things to figure out. It's simple and complicated, both at the same time."

Favre told ESPN he doesn't have a problem with competing with Rodgers for the starting job, and can "truly understand" why McCarthy would make Rodgers the starter. But Favre also said a competition "probably isn't going to work" and that "the problem is that there's been a lot of damage done and I can't forget it."

Did Favre not feel wanted or welcome enough by the Packers?

"That's part of the issue with him, quite frankly," McCarthy said. "And listening to him talk about that, you respect his opinion. And frankly, I told him, I said, 'I'll take responsibility because I have a voice in the building.' I never thought he truly was going to play. I thought he was emotionally driven for other reasons."

Broncos WR Marshall gets 3-game suspension

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—The Denver Broncos will start the season without wide receiver Brandon Marshall, who was suspended by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for three games for violating the league's personal conduct policy.

Marshall was summoned to Goodell's New York offices on July 18 to explain a series of off-the-field misdeeds over the past year, most notably his March 6 arrest on a domestic violence warrant filed by his former girlfriend in Atlanta.

Marshall, who is due in court next month for a drunken driving trial, can have his suspension reduced to two games if he undergoes counseling and abides by other conditions, which the NFL did not specify.

"There's no basis for discipline," Marshall's lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, argued during an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday night. "Mr. Marshall has not been convicted nor charged with a crime."

The league's personal conduct policy that Goodell strengthened last year states: "It's not enough to simply avoid being found guilty of a crime. Instead, as an employee of the NFL or a member club, you are held to a higher standard. Persons who fail to live up to this standard are guilty of conduct detrimental and subject to discipline, even where the conduct itself does not result in conviction of a crime."

Marshall's suspension is much shorter than those given Tank Johnson, Pacman Jones and Michael Vick under Goodell's watch.

Marshall will appeal the suspension, Steinberg said while questioning whether that would be an act of futility: "I get to appeal to the guy who imposed the discipline," Steinberg said.

Steinberg was angry that he and Marshall learned of the commissioner's decision via a press release.

Steinberg said he also had no idea what conditions Marshall would have to meet aside from counseling to have the suspension reduced by a game.

"I am assuming the NFL will send out another press release to tell us," Steinberg said.

He said Marshall had been hoping for a simple warning and was disappointed to get slapped with a suspension.

"He's having one of his best training camps," Steinberg said. "I told him we would appeal it, and he's anxious to have some modicum of due process."

If the suspension stands, Marshall will miss the Broncos' season opener at Oakland on Sept. 8 and the team's home opener against San Diego the following week. They face New Orleans at home in Week 3.

The ruling came down after the Broncos were finished with both of their practices and a spokesman said coach Mike Shanahan wouldn't address the matter until his scheduled Wednesday morning news conference.

The Broncos had been hoping to learn sooner about Marshall's status but realized the commissioner was bogged down with the Brett Favre saga.

Marshall emerged as quarterback Jay Cutler's primary target during a breakout 2007 season, catching 102 passes for 1,325 yards, but he's made news on and off the field since. In March he needed surgery on his right arm after he fell into a television set, he said, while horsing around with his brother.

Despite missing most of the team's offseason workouts as a result, Marshall has put aside any worries about his health or the specter of a suspension to consistently shine at practice.

Earlier in the week, teammates said they were hoping Marshall would only get a warning.

Alleged shooter in 'Pacman' case pleads not guilty

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The lawyer for the man accused of shooting three people after a strip club melee involving NFL player Adam Jones alleged Tuesday that Jones "completely fabricated" the story that led to the man's arrest.

"This entire case rests upon the statement of Adam 'Pacman' Jones," lawyer Jeffrey Segal told the judge who heard Arvin Kenti Edwards plead not guilty to charges that could put him in prison for the rest of his life.

"Pacman Jones' story is completely fabricated," Segal said outside court.

Clark County District Court Judge Valorie Vega set trial for March 2 and bail at $2 million. Segal said he intends to file a request for a lower bail amount.

In court, Segal told the judge that police arrested the wrong man based on the word of a troubled sports figure whose account of an NBA All-Star weekend melee inside the Minxx strip club and the shooting outside couldn't be trusted.

Segal said Jones refused to cooperate with investigators after the Feb. 19, 2007, shooting, then identified Edwards "after making a deal with the state where felony charges were dismissed so that he could get himself reinstated with the NFL."

"Nine months later, he comes forward with this story about how Mr. Edwards did this," Segal said, "after the state agreed not to prosecute him for these attempted murders."

Police said Jones, a 24-year-old cornerback who was traded from the Tennessee Titans to the Dallas Cowboys this summer, "instigated" a brawl inside the club by showering strippers on stage with dollar bills from a large plastic trash bag.

Jones was charged with two felony counts of coercion stemming from allegations that he threatened to kill club employees and scuffled with a bar bouncer. He was never charged in the shooting.

Segal said Jones, who was suspended by the NFL after repeated run-ins with police in cities around the country, benefited when he was allowed to plead guilty in December in Las Vegas to conspiracy to commit disorderly conduct, a gross misdemeanor. He also promised to testify about the gunman.

Edwards, 29, of Renton, Wash., could face up to 186 years in Nevada state prison if convicted of all seven felony charges against him: three counts of attempted murder, three counts of battery with a deadly weapon causing substantial bodily harm, and one count of being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm.

Prosecutor Victoria Villegas told the judge that Segal was wrong, and that Jones was one of two people to identify Edwards as the shooter.

Jones' lawyer, Robert Langford, said in a telephone interview that he didn't think Segal had seen the full case file.

"I think he needs to look at all the discovery before he goes popping off like that," Langford said.

Villegas said a valet attendant told authorities he was about 3 to 4 feet away from the shooter when gunfire broke out. He also identified Edwards as the shooter, the prosecutor said.

With Jones, who also picked Edwards out of a police lineup in Washington state, "we have two different individuals identifying the defendant," Villegas said.

Edwards is accused of wounding three people, including a club employee who was paralyzed from the waist down.

Jones remains suspended by the NFL but was cleared by commissioner Roger Goodell in June to take part in practices and preseason games.

Goodell has said he won't decide whether to reinstate Jones to play during the regular season until shortly before the Sept. 7 season opener.

Edwards has not been charged in a plot that Las Vegas police have said included telephone calls and demands that Jones pay Edwards $15,000 after the shooting for "services rendered."

Jones told authorities he didn't order the shooting and declined to pay. But he said he reimbursed a friend after the friend paid the money for him.

Arroyo signs with Israeli team

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Point guard Carlos Arroyo, who spent the last two seasons with the Orlando Magic, has become the latest NBA player to bolt overseas, signing with an Israeli team.

The 29-year-old Arroyo signed a one-year deal with Maccabi Tel Aviv.

"I'm very happy we've completed this signing," Maccabi coach Effi Birnboim said Monday on the club's Web site. "Arroyo is a player of the highest standard and has been our top priority for a while.

Arroyo has averaged 7 points and 3.3 assists per game during his seven-year career that included previous stops in Toronto, Denver, Utah and Detroit. He averaged 6.9 points and 3.5 assists last season, primarily off the bench.

Josh Childress announced last month that he was leaving the Atlanta Hawks for Greek club Olympiakos, reversing the course of the many international stars who have signed with the NBA. Agent Jim Tanner said Childress was guaranteed about $20 million after taxes, and that Childress could opt out of the contract after each year.

Nenad Krstic left the New Jersey Nets and Carlos Delfino and Jorge Garbajosa left the Toronto Raptors to sign with a Russian team.

Sailing, golf, athletics reps required in NMASA meeting

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, Aug. 7, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

NMASA president Michael White is also requiring representatives of golf, sailing, and athletics to attend the meeting as the CNMI's participation in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands would be discussed.

So far, only the three sports have signified interest in taking part in the quadrennial event next year.

Aside from the 2009 Pacific Mini Games dominating the meeting today, NMASA member associations will vote for the best athletes for the previous month (June) in four categories (male, female, male student, and female student) during the August general membership meeting.

NMASA reminds associations that will be nominating their athletes to submit written nominations in multiple copies to be distributed to members during the meeting.

Cook Islands last year announced that 15 sports will be featured in the 2009 edition of the quadrennial Games. The 15 sports are up from the 12 offered during the VII Pacific Mini Games held in Koror, Palau in 2005.

Athletics, table tennis, triathlon, va'a or outrigger canoeing, and weightlifting, bodybuilding, boxing, lawn bowls, rugby league, and touch rugby are the sports lined up for the 2009 Cook Islands Pacific Mini Games.

White earlier said the CNMI could possibly send athletes in six of the sports, namely athletics, golf, table tennis, triathlon, sailing, and va'a or outrigger canoeing.

However, because of funding issues, it seems like only three—athletics, golf, and sailing—would be sending teams to Cook Islands next year.

CWGA August ace this Saturday

The CNMI Women's Golf Association August Ace of the Month Tournament will be held this Saturday, Aug. 9, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to the club's secretary Lorraine Babauta, show time is set at 11:30am and tee time is scheduled an hour later at 12:30pm.

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct-adopted form the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity. ***(Mark Rabago)***

Gin Kings, Express vow exciting series

MANILA, Philippines—There was no prediction, only a guarantee of an exciting series from two teams that thrive on the run-and-gun style.

"The style and brand of play of Ginebra and Air21 are almost the same," Air21 head coach Bo Perasol said Monday at the press conference hyping up the PBA Smart Fiesta Conference finals.

"To be intimidated is to be negative about the series. So I have to feel to be on equal footing with them (Gin Kings) as far as preparation."

"We can assure that we will try our best to win the championship and that this will be an exciting series," said Ginebra coach Jong Uichico.

The Express, who are making their first appearance in the finals since joining the league in 2002, and Gin Kings begin their best-of-seven series at 7:20 Wednesday night at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

Perasol and Uichico begged off from making any prediction on how the series will play out.

"I have never been good in predicting whether it's going to be a short or long series," said Uichico, who is gunning for an eighth title and second with the Gin Kings.

Perasol said: "I would like it to be a short series in our favor but I think that's highly improbable. But we will be there no matter how long the series will be."

Air21 star Gary David believes the team that works extra hard on defense will have the edge.

"The challenge is on defense, especially on Mark (Caguioa), because he's their top scorer," David said. "If we play good defense, I think we have a good chance."

Ginebra forward Junthy Valenzuela thinks the Gin Kings' ability to stop the Express' 1-2 punch of David and Most Valuable Player candidate Arwind Santos will also be critical in the series.

"Air21 has big wingmen. Hopefully, we could defend well because that will be the key in the finals," said Valenzuela, who was shipped from Red Bull early in the tournament.

After dropping their first five games in the conference, the Gin Kings resuscitated their title aspiration by racking up 12 straight wins to reach the finals. ***(PDI)***

INTER

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would need an extra period or two to decide the championship, but with five minutes left in the competition, tournament MVP Norman Camacho of Inter-Godfather's booted the winning goal in the 65th minute and FC Arirang, this time, failed to respond handing the victory and championship to Camacho and company.

Camacho and teammates Swaim, Sanjay Dangol, John Duenas, David Duenas, Jose Duenas, Christopher Guerrero, Peter Houk, Karikou Jabrian, Eigo Komatsu, Peter Loken, Suriya Mongkhonat, Shunji Nagayasu, Koichiro Nakamura, Chris Nelson, Masatoshi Otsuka, Arkie Reusora, Dale Roberts, and Gregorio Sasamoto were awarded the 2008 Saipan Cup championship trophy and the $100 first place purse, courtesy of organizer Korea Amateur Sports Association. For finishing second, FC Arirang went home with $50.

On hand to present the hardware and cash prize during the awards ceremony immediately following the tournament were KASA president Jong Ho Lee as well as KFAS president Sung In Kim.

Other awardees of last Sunday's one-day soccer competition were Yong Jin Choi as best defender, FC Arirang's Sung Ho Kang as best offensive player (most goals), championship player of the game Claire Brostrum, and Leo Mendiola for sportsmanship.

Inter-Godfather's kicked off its campaign with a 2-1 nipping of Onwell in the first game of the 2008 Saipan Cup. The game saw Swaim score goals in the 12th and 27th minutes before Onwell came within a goal when Jason Schroeder split the pipes in the 54th minute.

FC Arirang, meanwhile, throttled an overmatched Multinational FC team, 6-2, in the second game, which saw Sung Ho Kang score thrice, Jin Wook Cho twice, and Suck Bong once for FCA. Joe Miller accounted for both of Multinational FC's goals.

In the third game of the tourney, Onwell battled to a 3-3 tie against Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. Jason Schroeder scored two goals and Jess Phonsutjit had one for Onwell, while the three goals of TDHC were courtesy of Yoshi Gabaldon (two) and Shackti G. Klenjan.

In what turned out to be a preview of the finals, Inter-Godfather's and FC Arirang played to a 1-1 draw in the fourth game.

Inter-Godfather's drew first blood when Christopher Guerrero scored a mere two minutes into the game, but FC Arirang equalized just before the first half ended when Kang found the back of the net in the 34th minute.

In the final game of the eliminations, Multinational FC improved its mark to 1-0-1 following a 1-0 victory over TDHC.

While Inter-Godfather's and FC Arirang both finished with a win and a draw and Multinational wrapped up its campaign with a win and a loss in the elimination round, TDHC and Onwell both wound up with a record of one loss and one draw.

The one-day tournament also saw the women's national team, which called themselves Women's All-Stars in the 2008 Saipan Cup, battle to 0-6 and 1-2 losses to Onwell and Multinational FC that played them a half at a time.

It's interesting to note though that the Women's All-Stars actually beat Multinational FC, 1-0, in the second half of the second game thanks to a goal by Lindsay Davis.

US

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the world championships two years ago.

Wade scored 22 points and LeBron James had 16 for the Americans, who finished 3-of-18 from behind the arc and 20-of-33 (61 percent) at the foul line.

The U.S. team won two blowouts in Macau but found things much more difficult here, starting with an 89-68 victory over Russia on Sunday.

"The last two games the ball has been sticking a little bit, so we have to get back to looking like the first game where everybody was touching the ball and we were playing like we should," point guard Jason Kidd said. "We're too talented of a team to take tough shots because there's always going to be someone open."

Patrick Mills and Chris Anstey, who had a first-half altercation with Wade, each scored 13 points for Australia.

"In the third quarter they knocked down some big shots and I think that got them back in the ball game," Kobe Bryant said. "And for us, we have to understand that that's going to happen from time to time and it's important to keep our poise, keep our composure and buckle down."

The U.S. team seemed in control after allowing one basket in the final 5 1/2 minutes of the first half to open a 44-29 lead. But the Americans left that defensive intensity in the locker room, allowing a number of open 3-pointers and uncontested drives to the basket.

"We came out lazy," Wade said.

The Australians outscored the Americans 13-2 to open the third quarter, pulling to 46-42 on David Barlow's layup with 6:52 remaining in the period.

"We just broke down. We gambled a couple of times and allowed them to make the extra pass," James said. "We can't have those types of mental breakdowns because these teams can really shoot the ball."

Michael Redd and Wade had layups to open the scoring in the fourth, pushing the U.S. lead to 69-55. Australia scored nine of the next 11 points to pull within seven with still half the period left, making the upset seem possible. The crowd even got behind the Australians, loudly booing a call that overruled what seemed to be a potential three-point play for them on an offensive rebound.

The Americans got their running game going again, and Wade had some easy baskets as they pulled away for their closest victory. The win over Russia was the previous closest game for the Americans, who came in averaging 110.8 points and shooting 64.2 percent from the field.

Bryant scored 13 points and Carmelo Anthony had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the United States, which faces host China on Sunday in its Olympic opener.

Bogut, the No. 1 pick in the 2005 draft, wanted more time to rest a sore right ankle that has been bothering him, but said he expects to be ready by the opener against Croatia on Sunday.

The Australians threw a scare into defending gold medalist Argentina in an earlier friendly, building a 19-point lead in the third quarter before losing 95-90.

They started well in this game, with Mills fearlessly driving to the basket and helping Australia lead by four a few times in the first quarter before the Americans rallied to grab a 22-19 lead. U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski started the second quarter with a lineup of James, Bryant, Wade, Anthony and Deron Williams. Australia wasn't scared of that unit, with Wade and Anstey jawing after Anstey fouled Wade away the ball and the players got tangled when the U.S. guard got up.

"What they've done, and where you see them, can intimidate a lot of people," Anstey said. "I think to come into a game intimidated you've given up before you start, and we didn't feel like we did that tonight."

Australia cut it to 26-25 on David Andersen's basket with 5:36 remaining in the half, then the small unit's pressure defense set in and made it hard for the Australians to even take shots.

The Americans forced eight turnovers in the period led by James, who was all over the court coming up with steals and blocks. He scored eight straight points to make it 37-25, then swatted a shot into the seats about a minute later.

Australia finally ended its drought when Mills went all the way for a layup with 1:51 to go, but the Americans came back with a steal by James leading to his own bucket and were up 15 at the break.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	67	45	.598	–
Boston	65	49	.570	3
New York	61	52	.540	6 1/2
Toronto	57	56	.504	10 1/2
Baltimore	54	58	.482	13

Central Division

Chicago	62	49	.559	–
Minnesota	62	51	.549	1
Detroit	55	57	.491	7 1/2
Kansas City	53	61	.465	10 1/2
Cleveland	49	63	.438	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	70	43	.619	–
Texas	60	54	.526	10 1/2
Oakland	53	59	.473	16 1/2
Seattle	44	69	.389	26

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	61	51	.545	–
Florida	60	53	.531	1 1/2
New York	59	53	.527	2
Atlanta	52	61	.460	9 1/2
Washington	42	71	.372	19 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	68	46	.596	–
Milwaukee	63	51	.553	5
St. Louis	63	52	.548	5 1/2
Houston	54	58	.482	13
Cincinnati	52	62	.456	16
Pittsburgh	51	62	.451	16 1/2

West Division

Arizona	59	54	.522	–
Los Angeles	56	56	.500	2 1/2
Colorado	52	63	.452	8
San Francisco	47	65	.420	11 1/2
San Diego	43	70	.381	16

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 11, Houston 7
Florida 8, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Mets 6, San Diego 5
Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 1
St. Louis 6, L.A. Dodgers 4, 11 innings
Colorado 8, Washington 2
Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 1
Atlanta 11, San Francisco 4
Toronto 4, Oakland 3
Tampa Bay 8, Cleveland 4
Texas 8, N.Y. Yankees 6
Boston 8, Kansas City 2
Chicago White Sox 10, Detroit 8, 14 innings
Baltimore 3, L.A. Angels 0
Seattle 8, Minnesota 7

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Predator or Prey

Photos by MARK RABAGO

Predator Combat Team's Charlz "The Predator" Aiken lets out a roar after outpointing Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in their heavyweight bout.

Predator Combat Team's Charlz "The Predator" Aiken mounts Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in the main event of last Saturday's Predator or Prey held at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

Blood oozes from the nose of UTC fighter Johnny Mercurio as D.A.T. Gymn's Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe has him on a rear-naked choke during their middleweight bout in Predator or Prey.

Predator Combat Team's John "The Jackhammer" Borja has the upper-hand against Trench Tech's Darrel "The Derailer" Salas in the second round of their middleweight bout. Salas, however, turned things around in the third when he put on a submission hold on Borja and referee James Ravilla had no choice but to stop the fight in his favor.

Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai has Marianas Elite's Syl "The Deal" Teregeyo in a headlock in the semi main event of last Saturday's Predator or Prey held at the Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

5 UTC fighter Johnny Mercurio and D.A.T. Gymn's Luka "Bad News" Iakopo Tapua'ialupe size each other up.

Team Xtreme's Lucio "Oh No" Omar is a little disoriented after Predator Combat Team's Bryson Sablan mounted him and landed a flurry of punches.

Team Zalaka's Andrew "Top Gun" Sablan is on the receiving end of a kick from independent fighter "Tabi" Jay Muna during their bantamweight match won by the former.

Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse of Trench Tech mounts Nate "The Terrible" Flores of Predator Combat Team in their lightweight bout. Jesse won via unanimous decision.

Referee James Ravilla raises the hand o Fasi "Quick Draw" Jesse after the Trench Tech fighter won his match against Nate "The Terrible" Flores, right.

Sailing, golf, athletics reps required in NMASA meeting

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will hold its regular monthly meeting tonight, Aug. 7, 7pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

26

Bay, Beckett lead Boston in 8-2 win over Royals

Jason Bay had four hits and two RBIs and Josh Beckett pitched effectively into the seventh inning to help the Boston Red Sox beat the Kansas City Royals 8-2 on Tuesday .

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Inter-Godfather's hoists Saipan Cup

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Inter-Godfather's won the 2008 Saipan Cup after beating FC Arirang in the finals last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The one-day tournament was participated in by five men's teams and the CNMI Women's National Football Team, which played two exhibition games.

Inter-Godfather's and FC Arirang both wound up with identical 1-1-0 win-draw-loss cards to advance to the finale.

In the championship, Inter-Godfather's led early thanks to a goal by CNMI National Team coach Nick Swaim a mere 15 minutes into the game.

But FC Arirang retaliated 20 minutes later when Gwang Sik found the back of the net as both teams entered the halftime break all knotted up at 1-1.

It appeared like Inter-Godfather's and FC Arirang

See INTER-GODFATHER on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Right, Inter-Godfather's Arkie Reusora receives the 2008 Saipan Cup championship trophy from Korean Amateur Sports Association president Jong Ho Lee during the awards ceremony following Inter-Godfather's 2-1 win over FC Arirang in the finals Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex. Above, Inter-Godfather and FC Arirang players and referees enter the football field for the 2008 Saipan Cup finals.

Thea to play in New Caledonia after 2008 POJC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Minor

Thea Minor will have a busy month ahead as the CNMI junior netter will compete in New Caledonia after her stint in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

In an email from Dan O'Connell, the International Tennis Federation official confirmed that Minor has indeed been invited to play in two tournaments in Noumea.

"Thea is part of a six-player team that will participate against the better juniors in New Caledonia and then attend a one week camp directed by Gerard Winter, one of the very best coaches in the region," he said in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Minor's mother, Joy, said her daughter welcomes the opportunity to travel to the French territory and gain more experience playing against New Caledonia's top junior players.

"My daughter is really happy with the invitation to go to New Caledonia. It was really an unexpected invitation from Dan and is another opportunity for Thea to travel and gain more experience, learning and playing with good players from New Caledonia," she said.

Joy Minor also thanked Grace Christian Academy for allowing her daughter to pursue her tennis dream.

"In spite of this opportunity, we're not allowing Thea to sacrifice her studies. That's why were are very thankful for GCA for the support and understanding that they have given her, specially GCA principal Faith Dela Rosa and her teachers."

Thea Minor and four other CNMI top junior players—Mayuko Arriola, Rafael Jones, Christian Miller, and Dina Jones—left for Fiji last night where they will join Ji Hoon Heo to spearhead the CNMI and North Pacific campaign in the POJC, which will run from Aug. 11 to 16 at the Robin Mitchell Regional Training Centre in Lautoka, Fiji.

Accompanying the group to Fiji is CNMI National Tennis coach and former Pacific Oceania Davis Cup captain Jeff Race.

BSML, govt/biz caging eye weekend games

By MARK RABAGO
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The 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League and the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League may soon play their games in the weekends as the power interruption at the Oleai Sports Complex continue to wreak havoc on their schedules.

This, as both leagues have cancelled their remaining play dates for this week as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have yet to change the intermittent power outages at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

SML commissioner Tony Rogolofoi, for one, has had enough of the unpredictable load shedding schedule and has in fact scheduled two playoff games this coming Saturday.

"All games this week are cancelled due to load shedding schedule that has drastically affected the Budweiser SML playoff games. Because of the power situation, we have decided to play games on Saturday, Aug. 9," the NMASA Hall of Famer said in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

He said Game 2 between unbeaten and pennant champion Rock Steady and fourth seed San Roque D-9ers will be played at 10am this Saturday, while Game 3 between second seed Ford Rangers and No. 3 Tanapag Falcons will follow at 2pm.

Rogolofoi added that, if necessary, Game 3 of the Rock Steady and D-9ers best-of-three series will be played on Monday beginning at 6:30pm—weather and CUC permitting.

However, the former Division of Sports and Recreation director said should the Rock Steady-D-9ers series end on Saturday, then the best-of-five championship series between Rock Steady and the winner of the Rangers/Falcons series will start on Monday, Aug. 11.

"Otherwise, the championship will start on Wednesday. SML apologizes for the inconveniences but it's out of our hands," said Rogolifoi.

Rogolofoi's counterpart in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League, coordinator Joey Dela Cruz, meanwhile, said that the roundball competition is definitely considering playing their games Saturday mornings.

He said he will soon call a meeting of all participating teams and ask for a consensus on how best to solve the scheduling problems the power outages have brought to the PTI-sponsored competition among government agencies and two teams from private companies.

US survives toughest test, beats Aussies by 11

AP

Dwyane Wade, right, of the USA men's basketball team for the Beijing 2008 Olympics, aims the basket during a match against Australia, as a warm-up for Olympics at the USA Basketball International Challenge tournament in Shanghai, China, Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2008.

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—They couldn't shoot and occasionally didn't defend. Definitely a performance the Americans should be relieved came before they got to Beijing.

Undefeated, but no longer unchallenged, the U.S. Olympic basketball team wrapped up its exhibition schedule with its toughest test, pulling away to beat Australia 87-76 Tuesday night.

The United States led by only four points nearly halfway through the third quarter and was up by seven midway through the fourth against an Australian team that was resting its best player, Milwaukee Bucks center Andrew Bogut.

The U.S. players still feel like gold medal favorites, but they hardly looked like gold medal locks during this shaky outing.

"Nothing alarming for us. It's alarming when you lose," Dwyane Wade said.

"We're still growing. We're still going to get better as each game goes on, but I think tonight we learned something."

The Americans relied on an aggressive defensive effort to overcome a horrendous night from 3-point range and the free throw line, the same areas that proved costly in their semifinal loss to Greece in

See US on Page 26